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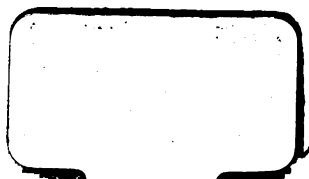
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THE
BON-ACCORD REPOSITORY

OF
LOCAL INSTITUTIONS,
MUNICIPAL, EDUCATIONAL, ECCLESIASTICAL,
AND COMMERCIAL.

BY
JAMES H. WILSON.

ABERDEEN :
GEORGE KING, 28, ST. NICHOLAS STREET.
PETERHEAD : ROBERT KING. INVERNESS : JAMES SMITH.
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MAGISTRATES OF ABERDEEN.

THOMAS BLAIKIE, *Lord Provost.*

Bailies.

LESLIE CLARK, Merchant.
JAMES FORBES, Merchant.

LEWIS CROMBIE of Kirkhill.
GEORGE HENRY, Merchant.

GEORGE THOMPSON, Jun., Merchant, *Dean of Guild.*

ALEXANDER WEBSTER, Advocate, *Treasurer.*

Alexander Hadden, Yor. of Persley, *Master of Shore Works.*

William Fraser, Merchant, *Master of Kirk and Bridge Works.*

William Clyne, Leather Merchant, *Master of Mortifications.*

Alexander Torrie, Advocate, *Master of Guild Brethren's Hospital.*

Councillors.

James Nicol, Advocate.

William Philip, Merchant,

D. Chalmers of Westburn,

Neil Smith, Jun., Merchant,

Robert Catto, Jun., Merchant.

Alexander Gordon, Advocate.

William Ross, Advocate.

Peter Williamson, Druggist,

James Simpson, Advocate, *Assessor.*

John Angus, Advocate, *Town Clerk.*

David Keith, Advocate, *Depute.*

Alexander Fraser, Advocate, *Chamberlain.*

Alexander & John Cadenhead, Advocates, *Procurators Fiscal.*

TO THE
LORD PROVOST AND MAGISTRATES
OF
THE CITY OF ABERDEEN.

MY LORD PROVOST
AND GENTLEMEN,

I beg to offer you my grateful acknowledgments for the honour of publishing the "BON-ACCORD REPOSITORY OF LOCAL INSTITUTIONS" under your patronage.

Having had access, through your kindness, to the best sources of information, and bestowed the greatest care in the collection and arrangement of the details, I would confidently hope that the Work will be worthy of your patronage and support.

I have the honor to remain,

MY LORD PROVOST AND GENTLEMEN,

Yours respectfully,

JAMES H. WILSON.

Aberdeen, June 1, 1842.

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INTRODUCTION.

THE leading design of this publication is to exhibit, at one view, a faithful account of the rise, progress, and present state of various public establishments that now exist in Aberdeen.

With a view to bring the "REPOSITORY" within the reach of the great bulk of our citizens, we have compressed a large amount of information into very narrow limits, and sought rather to interest the reader by general facts than engross his attention by minute details.

In a work where the statistics are necessarily of a difficult and complicated character, and especially where an attempt is made to popularise them, omis-


sions may be discovered by the experienced eye, which, in other circumstances, would not have occurred ; but we trust, nevertheless, that, for all practical purposes, the publication will answer the end intended, and supply a blank in our local literature, which has been long a subject of just regret.

ABERDEEN, June 1, 1842.

BON-ACCORD REPOSITORY.

CHAPTER I.

ABERDEEN—ITS ORIGIN AND POLITICAL RELATIONS.

 **ABERDEEN** was one of the original towns of Caledonia. The locality in which it was situated can be traced in the annals of history to the eighty-fourth year of the Christian Era. It was discovered by the Romans in the seventh campaign of Julius Agricola, and is mentioned by Ptolemy as the town of the Taixali, who inhabited the sea coast of the Province of Caledonia, known by the name of Vespasiana. These Taixali were warlike tribes, who, under Galgacus, a Caledonian chieftain, opposed the Roman invasion. The province of Vespasiana comprehended also the eastern and northern parts of Scotland, and was so called in honour of the Emperor Vespasian. It continued to be a Roman province for about ninety years, but was lost to the Romans by Calphurnicus, under Marcus Antonius, A.D. 170.

The town of Aberdeen was originally called *Devanhu*. During the Scoto-Saxon period it became known by the name of *Aberdoen* or *Aberdon*, and in subsequent ages by *Aberdene* or Aberdeen. Kennedy says that in "ancient times" it "consisted of rude and mean buildings, erected with wood or stone and turf, and thatched with straw, without much attention to convenience or regularity, and extended on the river side from the confluence of the Denburn, eastward toward the head of the Shiprow."

During the reign of David the First, and probably about the year 1130, Aberdeen was constituted a King's Borough, and the inhabitants *Burgenses regis*, as holding their *Burgagium* immediately of the Crown. In 1140, certain laws were passed, called the "Laws of Burrows," amongst which was an act providing "that the Provost, Baillies, and Council shall be chosen annually, by the common suffrages of all the honest men of the Burgh." They were protected by the King against "the tyranny and oppression of the restless nobles and barons of the kingdom," and, in return, had to pay his Majesty a certain sum yearly, which was raised by a tax upon the inhabitants. Notwithstanding of this protection, the "nobles and barons," it appears, still continued to make encroachments on the town. Other burghs being exposed to similar aggression, complaint was made to William the Lion, who not only confirmed the privileges and immunities enjoyed in the time of David his grandfather, but established them into corporations, or independent communities, by charters from the Crown. These corporations were assigned a certain territory,

for payment of an yearly sum to the King, and became entitled to choose their own Magistrates. Being thus enfranchised, they were privileged to send representatives to the National Parliament. The charter granted by William to Aberdeen is dated Perth, 1179. The exclusive privileges conferred by this charter were augmented and confirmed by other two special charters, bearing date August 28, 1196. By these charters, the burgesses were exempted from certain petty taxes, to which their commodities were liable when exposed to sale in the public markets in the kingdom. Commerce and manufactures now began to make considerable progress in the town; and, with a view to encourage them, Alexander II. granted the privilege of holding a weekly market, and of instituting a Merchant Guild, or "mercantile confraternity." The charter granting these privileges was of so exclusive a character, that the burgesses had a monopoly of trade for many years.

In 1342, David the Second summoned a general Council of the nation in Aberdeen, by which he passed a charter confirming previous grants, and otherwise gave such an impetus to the local improvement of the Burgh, that soon after the streets were paved, and many of the houses formerly built of wood were rebuilt of stone. "From these circumstances," says Kennedy, "the town henceforward became distinguished by the name of New Aberdeen."

The municipal government of the town had so much improved under these charters, and others of a similar kind—especially those granted by King Robert Bruce—that it now consisted of an Alder-

man or Provost, four Baillies, and a Common Council, chosen annually from the burgesses who were members of the Guildry. In 1394 the following municipal laws were established :—

1st, That no Alderman, Baillie, or any office-bearer, shall remain in office beyond one year.

2d, The Alderman's accounts to be given in forty days after his going out of office, and the balance to be paid without delay.

3d, He is to enjoy no office till the accounts be rendered, and the balance paid.

4th, No sum above one pound to be paid without the consent of a majority of the Council.

5th, The Baillies only to meddle with the town's rents.

6th, Commissioners to Parliament to be chosen by the whole Council.

7th, Tenants of the town's teinds and fishings to pay their rents when due.

From the records of the proceedings of the Magistrates and Council, it appears that, "on the first Monday anterior to Michaelmas, in the year 1398, the election of the Magistrates took place in the Court of the Baillies, with the consent and assent of the whole community of the Burgh." Twenty citizens were chosen members of the Common Council. This system of election continued till 1469, when an act of Parliament was passed, "ordaining the old Council annually to choose the new, and both together to elect the Provost, Baillies, Dean of Guild and other office-bearers." Although the Act of 1469 contains no provision which warranted the Magistrates and Council to be elected for life, it appears

that they had been so; for, on being complained against on this ground, by certain burgesses, to King James, he expressed his entire approbation of the system, and confirmed the practice by a writ under the Privy Seal, bearing date July 20, 1591. This so roused the indignation of the burgesses, that they appealed to the Convention of Royal Burghs, held at Aberdeen on the 8th of June, 1590, when the whole subject was discussed; but the Convention having no legislative character in a question of this kind, it could do nothing more than give a patient hearing to both parties. The leaders in this opposition to the Magistrates and Council, dissatisfied with the result of the discussion in the Convention, raised an action in the civil court, in which they sought to reduce all the elections of the "Magistrates and Town Council which had taken place for thirty years preceding, and also to obtain redress of various other grievances of which the burgesses complained." The Lords of Session, on the 21st of January and 20th of May, 1591, pronounced judgment in favour of the Magistrates and Council; but, at the same time, "decerned and declared that, in all time thereafter, the Provost, Baillies, and Council" should be chosen annually, according to the "acts of Parliament in all points." The grounds of acquittal rested on the authority of the King's Special Letters, authorising the Magistrates and Council to consider themselves elected for life. But the burgesses were not satisfied, and the contest ran so high that, on the 27th of September, 1592, a hostile conflict took place between the contending parties, in which one man was killed, and

fifteen wounded, three of whom were Magistrates. The disturbance might have been more fatal, had not the Magistrates offered terms of conciliation, which were accepted. In the afternoon both parties went to church, and in the evening they mutually forgave each other, and drowned all their animosity by a festivity at the Cross. The matter in controversy was thereafter referred to arbitration—the chief arbiter being the Sovereign. Decree arbitral was pronounced upon the 7th of December following, by which a Council was chosen for the year, consisting of burgesses of various shades of political opinion, and two craftsmen, as representatives of their respective crafts. On the 5th of July, 1595, the Convention of Burghs again met in Aberdeen, and new differences having by this time sprung up between the burgesses, craftsmen, and the Magistrates, the points in dispute were referred to that body. The Convention discussed the subject fully, and gave decree arbitral, finding some modification necessary, which gave general satisfaction to the inhabitants.

In 1638, Charles I. granted a charter, confirming all previous charters, and conferring on the community many new and important privileges and immunities not included in any previous grant. By this charter, the Provost of Aberdeen was ordained High Sheriff and Coroner, and the Baillies his Deputy-Sheriffs and Coroners within the town and liberties. They were also appointed Justiciaries of the Peace, having both a civil and criminal jurisdiction. This charter is dated at "Oatland, September 8, 1638," and was subsequently confirmed by act of Parliament. It is the latest charter granted to the city.

"The constitution as now formed," says Kennedy, "was not completely established till after violent and repeated struggles between the Burgesses of Guild and those who were in possession of the civil government of the town, and in all those struggles the former were invariably aided by the incorporated artificers;" and this remark may be said to be descriptive of the political state of parties in the city down to the present century; for, though various modifications were introduced into the details of the electoral system, the principle of self-election obtained till the passing of the Scottish Municipal Reform Act, in 1833. By this act, the election of the Town Council is vested in the ten-pound constituency created by the Reform Bill, but no citizen can sit at the Council Board unless he be qualified as a Burgess of Guild, or a Burgess of Trade.

Thus much for Aberdeen and its local political relations. To complete the sketch, we shall notice some leading facts in connexion with its importance as a Parliamentary constituency.

In 1398, William de Camera and Simon Benyn were delegated to represent the burgh in the Parliament of Linlithgow. In 1406, Commissioners were sent to the Parliament at Perth; in 1436, Provost Menzies was elected to represent the burgh at Edinburgh, and £16 Scots were voted as his expenses. In 1679, three Commissioners were appointed; and in 1687, no fewer than four were elected. These Commissioners, or Representatives, were all elected annually; but it does not appear from the Council records whether or not one or more were privileged to sit in

Parliament at the same time, but it is certain that the elections were annually made. By the Act of Union, Aberdeen became entitled to send a representative to the Parliament of the United Kingdom, conjunctly with Arbroath, Montrose, Brechin, and Bervie. Provost John Gordon of Aberdeen was the first member elected for that district of burghs. The office was conferred upon him unanimously, and without solicitation or expense. After his election he was presented with L.50 sterling, to pay the expense of his journey to London, which he accomplished on a *charger*, equipped with a velvet mantle, and otherwise richly caparisoned. He represented the burghs for two years, and was allowed, including the L.50 of outlay, allowance by the Town Council of Aberdeen alone, L.425 7s. 2d., as "personal expenses, while attending to his duty in two several Parliaments." This system continued till the 17th of July, 1832, when the Reform Bill was passed, and Aberdeen again became entitled to send a representative by itself to the Imperial Parliament of the United Kingdom. The right of election, or rather the elective franchise, is now held by proprietors or occupiers of houses, of not less than ten pounds yearly rental, resident within a given boundary, which includes the whole property of the burgh. The first election under this act took place under the 18th of December, 1832, when Alexander Bannerman, Esq., Merchant, was returned. Since then there have been three general elections, at each of which Mr. Bannerman has been the successful candidate.

THE PATRIMONY OF THE CITY—THE
TREASURY.

The patrimonial interests of the city can be traced by tradition to the year 1130, and by charter to the year 1179. They consisted originally of certain immunities, which William the Lion refers to as "granted in the time of David his grandfather," and were confirmed and extended by various charters and grants, to which we have already referred. The most valuable grant was the Royal forest of Stocket, by Robert Bruce, in 1319. The Council records are complete from the year 1398, at which period the property of the burgh was of considerable value, as will be seen from the following statement of the "rental of the lands, fishings, mills, &c.," entered at page 26, vol. vii. :—

	Scotch Money.		
The Garne and Hazlehead,	L.6	0	0
Shetocksley,	3	0	0
Rubislaw,	20	0	0
The Town's Public Mills,	0	0	0
FISHINGS ON DEE :—			
Rake, five nets,	36	6	0
Midchingle, six do.,	16	0	0
Pot, six do.,	20	0	0
Foords, seven do.,	25	0	0
FISHINGS ON DON :—			
Six half nets,	20	0	0
Cruives,	21	0	0
Tolls, Firilot,	13	6	3

Besides certain property called "Burgh Roods," and privileges by dues on "Small Customs," and

"Water Boll," which, though yielding no rent in 1398, were worth L12 18s. in 1413, by which time the other property had also increased in value about ten per cent.

From careful and judicious management, these ancient possessions became very valuable, and were augmented by other royal grants; but, unfortunately, in the year 1551, the Magistracy and Council obtained a charter, by which they were enabled to alienate the lands and fishings, by feu and fee simple, to "burgesses, actual indwellers of the town, frequenting and using exercise of merchandise, *womankind* being particularly excepted." By and by, this restriction was removed, and much of the property is now held by common citizens.

These alienations of the town's property were sanctioned by a majority of a Head Court, at a public meeting of the burgesses, as will be seen from the following:—

Table showing the Feu-Duties and Compositions for the grants of the Lands and Salmon Fishings belonging to Aberdeen, as fixed by the Head Court of the Citizens, 4th March, 1551.

LANDS.

	Ancient Money. Annual Feu-Duty.			Current Money. Composition.		
The Garden,	L.60	0	0	.....	L.27	0 0
The Lands of Shedocksley, ..	53	6	8	.....	26	13 4
..... the Tulloch,	4	0	0	.....	18	0 0
..... the Kingswells, ..	26	13	4	.....	17	0 0
..... the Forrester-						
..... hill,	20	0	0	.....	12	13 4
..... the Cruives,	40	0	0	.....	20	13 0

The Lands of the Kingshill, L.	1	6	8	.....	L.6	13	4
..... Bogfarly,	44	13	4	.....	22	0	0
..... Rubislaw,	20	0	0	.....	26	0	0
..... Hesselhead,	13	6	8	.....	18	0	0
	<hr/>				<hr/>		
	L.263	6	8		L.194	13	0

SALMON FISHINGS.

FISHINGS ON THE DEE :—	Annual Feu-Duty.	Composition.
Raik, five nets,	L.89 14 10	..... L.484 0 0
Midchingle, five do.,	81 10 0	..... 266 13 4
Three third parts,	0 0 0	..... 53 6 9
Pot, six nets,	49 0 0	..... 268 0 0
Fords, seven and one-half nets, 25	2 6	..... 165 0 0

FISHINGS ON THE DON :—

Two nets,	L.0 0 0	..... 172 0 0
Three third parts,	58 16 0	..... 86 0 0
Cruives, three sixth parts, ..	12 10 0	..... 176 0 0
Do. four eighths,	12 10 0	..... 176 0 0

L.329 3 4 L.1847 . 0 0

—*Council Register, Vol. 21, pp. 109--141.*

The annual revenue derivable from the lands and fishings thus alienated was equal to about L.431 5s. sterling.

"The revenue," says Kennedy, "in modern times, of the lands, river fishings, and other property annexed to the burgh by King Robert, cannot be estimated at less than L.18,000 sterling annually, to those who are now in possession of them." If so, what would have been the revenue of all the other properties had they not been alienated?

In 1784, an association of independent burgesses was formed, with a view to support a general agitation

that had then commenced in favour of Parliamentary and Municipal Reform. This association delegated its principal business to a Committee, or Executive Council, who, among other things, maintained that the "expenditure of the public funds of the city was not conducted with wisdom or economy, or with due regard to the true interests of the community." No specific charge of improper application of the funds was preferred against the Magistrates; but, from the examination of the town's books by this Committee, it appeared that the average expenditure had exceeded the income for several years by about L.400. The account on the general balance stood thus:—

Revenue,	L.1102	0	3
Expenditure,	1507	13	2
<hr/>			
Surplus Expenditure,	L.405	12	11

In 1785, the city was in debt L.12,384 7s. 10d. The debts were contracted by borrowing from various mortification funds, and private parties, as under:—

The Master of Guild Brethren's Hospital,	L.500	0	0
The Master of Kirk and Bridge Works,	325	0	0
The Master of Mortifications,	1622	0	0
The Dean of Guild,	1621	0	0
Lady Dun's Mortification,	1300	0	0
Mr. Gerrard's do.,	190	0	0
The Treasurer of Gordon's Hospital,	1300	0	0
Do. Do.	1000	0	0
St. Paul's Chapel,	500	0	0
The Kirk-Session of Aberdeen,	900	0	0
The Infirmary of Aberdeen,	2000	0	0
James Allardyce,	1100	0	0

James Johnston	L.500	0	0
Other private parties,	900	0	0
	<hr/>		
	L.13,758	7	10
Less, money lent,	1,375	0	0
	<hr/>		
Total debt,	L.12,383	7	10

In 1790, a plan "to open a new street from the west end of Castle Street, through St Catherine's Hill, over the Denburn, and, by means of a bridge, to form a communication with the extensive plain on the west of the town," was suggested by Mr. Charles Abercrombie, Surveyor, was recommended to the consideration of the Magistrates, and laid before the Town Council upon the 29th of July. The proposed improvement proved the subject of various discussions, both by the Town Council and the Commissioners for paving and lighting the streets, who mutually agreed to submit the proposal to the judgment of a public meeting of the citizens. Several meetings were held, the result of which was, that "two new streets should be opened, one from the south, and another from the north," and, "being satisfied that the undertaking would ultimately answer its own purposes, and reimburse the advances, they were of opinion that the most proper mode of raising the money would be for the Council to interpose the credit of the community; and it should be recommended to that body to do so under the authority of an act of Parliament." On the 28th September next, the Council resolved to give effect to this recommendation; and, in the subsequent Session of Parliament, an act was obtained authorising the Council,

with certain other Trustees, to proceed with the work. But they had not proceeded far until they found that the expense of the operations very far exceeded the original estimate, while the returns from feu-duties were exceedingly trifling in amount. Being engaged in the construction of a new turnpike road to Stonehaven, which involved an outlay of L.12,000, and in the improvement of the harbour, upon which advances had been made to the extent of L.43,000, the treasury became burdened with a heavy load of debt. To meet the pressing demands on the treasury, the Magistrates and Council sold, from time to time, part of the property belonging to public institutions under their charge; but, notwithstanding of these and various other shifts, the city became insolvent, and announced its insolvency in Feb. 1817. The amount of the debt was L.225,740 14s. 4d., besides the current interest. The gross annual income was L.10,042 10s., and the estimated value of the whole property was L.241,663 6s. 4d. There was thus an apparent reversion of L.15,952; but the calculations on which it proceeded being founded chiefly on prospective data, such as the feus on the new line of Union Street and King Street, it was doubtful if the reversion would be realised. Various schemes were suggested with a view to extricate the treasury from its embarrassments, and ultimately it was "resolved that the Treasurer, Magistrates, and Council, and the Trustees under the act of Parliament which had passed for the new streets, should grant a disposition and conveyance of the whole heritable and moveable public property vested in them, to twenty-one citizens,

who were named in trust for the behoof of the creditors of the Corporation." This resolution having met with the approbation of the creditors, "the property was surrendered accordingly to the management of these Trustees."

Several schemes were adopted by the Trustees with a view to realize the calculations of the prospective estimate; and, altogether, the management of the trust was so successful that, in the course of about six years, they were able to present a balance, which warranted the transfer of the property and funds, to the ordinary management of the corporation. From this time forward the Treasury continued to prosper; and, from the following statement, made by Provost Blaikie at a Council meeting, on the 1st November, 1841, it will be seen that, since 1833, a large amount of the debt has been paid off. The Provost said—"In reference to the gratifying statement which the Treasurer had made with regard to the affairs of the Treasury for the past year, he had an equally gratifying comparative statement to lay before them of their affairs for the last eight years, or from the period of the change made in the system of election:—

The Treasury debt on the 15th October, 1833,	
was	L.180,772
On the 15th October, 1841, it is	170,138
So that, in these eight years, there had been paid off.....	L.10,634
While, in the same period, there had been laid out in substantial public improvements the sum of.....	L.13,095

Among these were, the sum paid for re-

building the East Church,	L.5028
The subscription to Marischal College, ..	1050
The New Fish Market,	518
The Bridge at Castlehill, after deducting the contribution by Government, ..	304
The improvement of Castle Street,	200
The Granaries for the Town's Mills,	287
The New Schools,	2205
The Post Office,	75
Making, with other improvements, an expenditure in all of	— L.13,095

“The Council,” he continued, “were also aware that a sum exceeding L.19,000 of accumulated debt on the Kirk charge had now been consolidated with that of the Treasury; and, for the last two years, the surplus expenditure on the Churches, amounting to between L.600 and L.700 per annum, had also been defrayed from the Treasury funds.

The revenue in 1833 was	L.10,808	13	6
For the present year it is	11,141	0	11
Being an increase of	L.332	7	5

The expenditure in 1833 was	8,934	4	5
In 1841, it is	8,319	4	3
Being a decrease, since 1833, of	L.615	0	2

Thus, the surplus revenue, in 1833, was about.....L.1900
In 1841, it is about..... 2800 ”

The property of the Treasury is now very valuable; and, being so varied in its character, there is

but small risk of any depreciation which would affect it as a whole.

The following is a statement of the Treasury feu-duties, and rental of Treasury property for 1841:—

TREASURY FEU-DUTIES.

Feu-duties of Salmon Fishings and Small Feu-

duties,	L.136	6	0
„ Grounds, Stocket,.....	108	1	4
„ Common Lands,.....	125	8	8
„ Shetocksley & Whitemyre, partly in Grain, at Fiars' Prices,.....	94	3	3
„ Shore Lands,.....	44	15	0
„ Marischal Street,.....	67	6	6
„ Frederick Street,.....	199	3	0
„ Meal Market Street,.....	73	2	6
„ Pow Creek Ground,.....	14	4	6
„ Grounds at Footdee,.....	420	13	6
„ „ at Poynernook,.....	265	2	2
„ „ at Denburn, near Jack's Brae,.....	17	19	10
„ Sundries—Buxburn, Bridewell, &c.,	267	4	4
„ Union Street,.....	3304	18	8
„ Netherkirkgate and Denburn,	30	10	0
„ Union Terrace,.....	124	10	4
„ Union Row,.....	38	0	8
„ King Street,.....	721	16	0
„ St. Nicholas Street,.....	331	19	4
Total,	L.6385	5	7

RENTAL OF TREASURY PROPERTY.

Rent of Shops—Castle Street and old Record

Office,	£83	0	0
„ Shops and Houses, Union Street,	379	17	0

Rent of Houses, Green and Windmill-brae, L.40	5	0
„ Fishers' Houses, Footdee Square,.....	256	0 0
„ Stalls, New Fish Market,	30	0 0
„ Bay of Nigg Salmon Fishings,.....	681	0 0
„ Houses and Ferry Boats, Footdee,.....	263	0 0
„ Roperies, do.	112	2 0
„ Dock-yards and Ground, do.	490	0 0
„ Boil-houses and do. do.	92	10 0
„ Reserved Ground, Torrie and Girdle- ness,	92	8 7
„ Parks along Mid-Stocket Road,	75	6 0
„ Wood-yards, Poynerbrook,	18	0 0
„ Grounds along Union and King Streets,.....	50	0 0
„ Customs and Weigh-house,.....	932	0 0
„ Town's Mills,.....	480	0 0
„ Vaults—Virginia Street and under St. Nicholas Street, Ground near Bridewell, Quarry, Cairncry, and House, Frederick Street,.....	63	6 0
„ House, Belmont Street,		
Total,.....	£4138	14 7

Thus much for the Treasury proper. There are other funds under the administration of the Magistrates and Council which will fall to be noticed under the different subjects to which they apply; but we may here state that the general receipt and expenditure for the year ending October 15, 1841, was as follows:—

Receipt,.....	L.21,636	11 1
Expenditure,.....	20,577	0 5
Surplus,.....	L.1,059	10 8

The stock account of the whole funds under the administration of the Council, according to a valuation in 1834, was estimated at L.290,215. The debts and trust funds amounted to L.227,804, which, when deducted from the stock, left a surplus of L.62,410, besides the fabrics of the city churches, and several other subjects held for the community. The stock may now be set down as improved at least ten per cent.

 POPULATION OF THE CITY.

In 1396, Aberdeen contained 2,977 inhabitants.

1572,	----	4,000	”
1581,	----	5,833	”
1592,	----	7,301	”
1615,	----	7,805	”
1633,	----	8,000	”
1643,	----	8,750	”
1708,	----	5,556	”
1755,	----	15,730	”
1801,	----	27,608	”
1811,	----	35,370	”
1821,	----	44,796	”
1831,	----	58,019	”
1841,	----	63,262	”

Since 1755 inclusive, the returns include the parish of Old Machar, which of itself contains a population of 26,523, from which, if we deduct the population of Old Aberdeen (burgh of barony and regality), 1656,

we shall find the population of New Aberdeen alone to be 61,606. It would appear, however, from the following explanations which accompanied the official abstract of the census returns, that the actual population in 1841 was 67,252 :—

From the annexed summary and abstracts it will be seen that 62,262 persons abode within the Parliamentary boundary of the City of Aberdeen, on the night of Sunday the 6th of June. Comparing this number with the return for 1831 (58,019), the apparent increase is only 5,243, but there are circumstances to be taken into account which show that the actual increase is much greater.

In the first place, the whole of the parish of Old Machar was included in the census of the City for 1831 ; while, by the new arrangements, the portion of Old Machar that lies beyond the Don, and without the Parliamentary boundary, containing a population of 1,490, is excluded.

Secondly, it has been found quite impracticable to obtain, by inquiry on the part of the enumerators, anything like an accurate account of the persons travelling, or at sea, on the night of the 6th of June ; but a return that has been furnished by the Collector of Customs, shows that of seamen *alone*, belonging to the port, there must have been absent upwards of 2,000.

Thirdly, it is understood that the census of 1831 included all the persons who usually resided within the boundaries ; while, on this occasion, the enumeration was confined to such as were abiding on the night of the 6th of June. This rule will, no doubt, add to the accuracy of the general return for the kingdom, but it must have the effect of decreasing the apparent population of such large towns as send a number of their inhabitants to the country or watering-places at this season. Aberdeen, from this cause alone, must have suffered to the extent of at least 500. In the west end of the city, many of the largest houses are occupied by a single domestic.

In estimating, therefore, the actual population of the city, for the purpose of comparison with what it was in 1831, these three circumstances ought not to be overlooked. The account would then stand thus :—

Persons who abode within the Parliamentary boundary on the night of the 6th of June,.....	63,262
Persons who abode within the northern district of Old Machar,.....	1,490
Seamen (say).....	2,000
Belonging to families gone to the country,.....	500
Population of Old Machar and St. Nicholas, in 1841, ..	67,252
Ditto in 1831,.....	58,019
Actual increase,.....	9,233

This increase (16 per cent.), though equal to the computed increase over the country, is not in proportion to the local increase in the preceding ten years. In 1821, the population of St. Nicholas and Old Machar was only 44,796, and in 1831 it had risen to 58,019.—*Notes on the general summary and abstract of the population for the City of Aberdeen, 7th June, 1841.*

The returns for 1831 were thus classified :—

PARISH.	HOUSES.			Males.	Females.	Total.
	Inhabited.	Uninhab.	Families.			
East,	383	10	968	1,600	2,246	3,846
West,	617	7	2,280	3,969	5,021	8,990
North,	382	8	1,271	2,019	2,597	4,616
South,	399	8	1,288	1,803	2,510	4,313
Greyfriars,	372	11	1,086	2,155	2,551	4,706
St. Clement's,	387	1	1,526	2,651	3,850	6,501
	2,539	45	8,439	14,137	18,775	32,912
Old Machar,				14,098	14,009	28,107
Total,				28,235	34,784	63,019

And the returns for 1841, when classified in the same way, stand thus :—

PARISH.	HOUSES.				Males.	Females.	Total.
	Inhabited.	Uninhabited.	Build- ing.	Families.			
East,	408	23	1	1,025	2,204	2,595	4,799
West,	728	16	0	2,473	4,578	5,606	10,184
North,	420	20	4	1,224	2,325	3,045	5,370
South,	313	13	1	1,020	1,662	2,272	3,934
Greyfriars,	416	6	1	1,389	2,402	2,953	5,355
St. Clement's,	409	5	0	1,649	3,208	3,884	7,092
Oldmachar (part of),	2,822	96	14	6,390	11,903	15,314	26,517
Banchory-Devenick (part of),	2	0	0	2	8	3	11
Total,	5,520	179	21	15,172	27,590	35,672	63,262

Connected with the population of the City, and as an index to the general character of the trade and commerce which obtain in it, we submit a classification of the various occupations in which the inhabitants are engaged :—

Accountants,	3
Advocates,	142
Agents,	30
Apothecaries and druggists,	31
Architects,	5
Artists,	6
Auctioneers,	8
Bakers,	60
Bankers,	7
Basket-makers,	5
Blacksmiths,	43
Bleachers,	3
Boatbuilders,	5
Bone-crushers,	3
Book-agents,	4

POPULATION OF THE CITY.

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Bookbinders,	10
Booksellers and stationers,	28
Boot and shoemakers,	143
Brass-founders,	7
Brewers,	16
Brick and tile-makers,	4
Brushmakers,	4
Builders and masons,	30
Cabinetmakers and upholsterers,	37
Carpet-weaver,	1
Cart and wheel-wrights,	12
Carvers and gilders,	3
China, glass, and stoneware dealers,	20
Clothes-dealers,	13
Coach-builders,	3
Coal-brokers,	7
Comb-makers,	3
Confectioners,	24
Coopers,	30
Coppersmiths,	5
Cork-cutters,	2
Corn-merchants,	10
Cotton-manufacturers,	16
Cotton-spinners,	2
Curriers,	6
Cutlers,	4
Dentists,	4
Distillers,	6
Dressmakers and milliners,	44
Drysaltern,	3
Dyers,	15
Engineers, (civil)	2
Engravers and copperplate printers,	3
Fish-curern,	10
Fishing-tackle makers,	5
Flax-spinners,	3
Fleshers,	105

Fruiterers,.....	3
Furniture-brokers,.....	12
Gardeners,.....	35
Grocers and spirit-dealers,	200
Gunsmiths,.....	4
Hairdressers,	33
Hardware-dealers,	8
Hat-makers and hatters,.....	8
Hosiery,	9
Insurance and ship-brokers,.....	16
Iron-founders,	5
Iron-merchants,	3
Ironmongers,	15
Japanners,.....	3
Jewellers, gold and silversmiths,.....	7
Leather-cutters,	10
Leather-merchants,	5
Lime-merchants,.....	2
Linen and woollen-draper,	38
Linen manufacturers,.....	8
Literateurs,	8
Livery stable-keepers,	7
Machine makers,	8
Maltsters,	1
Meal dealers,	16
Merchants and shipowners,	32
Messengers,.....	4
Millers,.....	8
Millwrights,	5
Musical-instrument-makers,.....	8
Nail-makers,	6
Nursery and seedsmen,.....	8
Opticians,	3
Painters and glaziers,.....	25
Paper-makers,	2
Pawnbrokers,	7
Physicians,	30

POPULATION OF THE CITY.

25

Plane-makers,	2
Plasterers,	13
Plumbers,	4
Porter and ale-dealers,	6
Poulterers,	6
Printers,	7
Provision-merchants,	8
Quill-merchants,	1
Reed-makers,	2
Rope and twine-makers,	13
Saddlers,	8
Sail-cloth manufacturer,	1
Sailmakers,	5
Sheriff-officers,	6
Shipbuilders,	4
Ship-chandlers,	5
Shuttle-makers,	2
Silk-mercera,	8
Skinners,	4
Slaters,	14
Snuff-box makers,	2
Spirit dealers,	40
Stay-makers,	3
Stocking manufacturers,	11
Stone-cutters,	6
Stone merchants,	6
Straw-hat manufacturers,	10
Surgeons,	49
Surveyors,	6
Tailors,	106
Tallow chandlers,	8
Tanners,	5
Tape manufacturer,	1
Tea-dealers, (wholesale)	7
..... (retail)	12
Teachers,	102
Thread manufacturers,	3


D

Timber merchants,	15
Tin-plate workers,	15
Tobacco and snuff manufacturers,	6
Tobacco pipe-makers,	2
Turners,	12
Umbrella makers,	5
Veterinary surgeons,	2
Vintners,	183
Watch and clock-makers,	24
Wine and spirit-merchants,	15
Woollen spinners,	13
Woollen drapers,	15
Wrights and carpenters,	38

This classification, it will be seen, includes only the parties who are carrying on the trades or occupations specified at their own risk, and not those employed under them.

CHAPTER II.

THE GUILDRY—ITS RESOURCES.

HE Guildry was originally a "mercantile association," possessing certain exclusive privileges of trade and commerce.

In Anderson's History of Commerce, vol. I., p. 70, it is stated "that merchant gilds or fraternities, which were afterwards styled corporations, came first into general use about the 11th century. They took their rise in the free cities of Italy, where trade and manufactures were early propagated."

From the intercourse which Aberdeen had with the Continental towns in the earlier ages, it may be reasonably inferred that the Hanseatic associations of Hamburg and Lubec formed the model after which our Guildry was constituted. If this inference be correct, the *Gilde*, which simply means fraternity or company, possessed the power of establishing regulations and by-laws for its own internal government.

The original design of the Guildry was monopoly in everything over which the burgesses could obtain any control. "At one time, the very ovens in town were let in tax by the magistrates to certain bakers whom they licensed;" and, as an illustration of the ex-

clusive and arbitrary system that then prevailed, we quote from Mr. Bannerman's Inquiry a list of prices fixed by the authorities in 1568, in comparison with prices of the same commodities and labour under a system of free-trade competition in 1842 :—

	1568.		1842.	
	s.	d.	l.	s.
Men's shoes, a pair, single soled,.....	0	2½	...	0 2 5
Do. do. double soled,.....	0	3	...	0 3 6
Women's do., single soled,.....	0	1½	...	0 2 0
Ditto do., double soled,.....	0	2	...	0 2 6
Children's do.,	0	1	...	0 1 6
Boots,	1	4	...	0 3 6
White Bread, per 20 ounces,.....	0	0½	...	0 0 3
Mutton bouk [carcase]—best,.....	0	10	...	1 1 0
Do. of less value,.....	0	8	...	0 16 0
Sheep's Tallow, per stone,.....	1	6	...	0 5 6
Nolt's do. do.	1	4	...	0 7 9
Gude stark cleine Ale, by freemen, per gallon,	0	2	...	0 1 6
Do., by unfreemen,.....	0	1½	...	0 0 0
Master Masons, Wrights, and Slaters, per day,	0	3	...	0 3 6
Journeymen,	0	2	...	0 2 6
Barrowmen and Servant Boys,.....	0	1½	...	0 1 6

During the twelfth century, the Guildry was liberal enough to include wives and daughters of Guild Brethren; and, in the year 1280, when provision was specially made for the support of decayed brethren, the orphan daughters were not forgotten; for it was "Statute and ordained that, gif ane Gild Brother decis, leivand behind him ane lauchful dochter of gude conversation and fame, quha hes not



of her awin ony gudis or geir quhairby sche may be maryit with ane husband, the Alderman, Dene, and Gild Brether *sal provide to her ane husband*, effeirand to the riches and faculty of the Gild." The ceremony of making a burgess in those days was concluded by kissing "the Provost and his neighbours," a sagacious rule, and, doubtless, considered very necessary, as affording the Burgesses an opportunity of bestowing a tangible token of the affection they bore towards their fair charge. We do not know if this law was ever repealed; but it would appear, from the fact of "womankind" being proscribed, in 1551, from purchasing any of the town's property, in their own right, that the fair sex did not find so much favour in the eyes of the Guild Brethren of that day.

From the Charter granted by Alexander II. before 1226, it would appear that the Guildry was composed of craftsmen as well as merchants of the burgh; but King James III., in 1466, restricted their influence very considerably, because they opposed the more wealthy Burgesses in their excessive liberality towards himself. The distinction of Burgesses of Guild, Burgesses of Trade, and simple Burgesses, is clearly indicated in various charters of very ancient date, the object of it evidently being to allow each class to possess a degree of exclusive privilege by trading which would correspond with the nature of their business and their utility to contribute to the Common Good.

By the Charter of King Charles II., dated Sept. 9, 1638, the power of "holding and having for ever, within the burgh and liberty thereof, a Merchant

Gildrie, with Gild Courts, counsellors, members, and judicatories thereof, proper and necessary," was vested with other privileges in the burgh. By this Charter, the rights and liberties of the Guildry are clearly defined; and, having been confirmed by act of Parliament, much stress has been laid upon it, as affording demonstrable evidence that the Guildry is an incorporation. This question has been the subject of keen contention among the Guild Brethren; one party maintaining that, by its corporate character, the Burgesses are entitled to the sole management of the Guildry funds; the other, that it possesses no legislative capacity beyond the control of the Magistrates and Council. Upon the first point, Counsel was consulted by the Burgesses in 1836, when Mr. Ivory, now Lord Ivory, and Mr. Hope, now Lord Justice General, gave an opinion in its favour. Upon the second point, the Magistrates and Council, in an action of declarator in the Court of Session in 1837, obtained a decision adverse to the claims of the Guildry. Since then, the Guildry funds have been exclusively managed by the Magistrates and Council, all of whom must be Burgesses either of Guild or Craft.

The privileges of a Burgess of Guild now consist of—

1st, The freedom of trade within the burgh in the fullest manner.

2^d, He pays but three-fourths of the shoredues chargeable to unfreemen.

3^d, He is exempt from all burgh customs on articles brought into town for his own use.

4th, He and his widow and children are entitled to the benefit of charitable funds.

5th, His children have a preference for admission to Gordon's Hospital, and to certain bursaries at the Grammar School and College.

6th, Singular heirs and successors (not being Burgesses of Guild), entering to the town's fishings and freedom lands, must pay the amount of the entry-money of a Burgess of Guild.

Before proceeding to give some account of the machinery by which the Guildry is managed, and the patrimonial interests appertaining thereto, we may premise a few cursory notes on the nature and importance of the office of the DEAN.

In our day, the Provost, or Chief Magistrate, presides at all the head courts and other meetings of the citizens connected with the affairs of the burgh. But, on glancing over the Records of the Town Council, one cannot fail to observe that, until a very recent period, the Dean of Guild was the responsible officer on almost all public occasions. He was at one time both Dean of Guild and Treasurer of the city—was invested with judicial powers of a very high order—and adjudicated, along with his Court, not merely in cases between merchant and merchant, but in matters involving doctrine and discipline both in moral science and ecclesiastical economy. In 1592, he was appointed Procurator-Fiscal of the town, and, in 1599, he was paid, “by order of the Council, L.47 3s. 4d., as a reward for his extraordinary pains in burning of the great number of witches this year, and of hanging four pirates, and other services.” On another occasion, he fined Gilbert Kemp L.10 Scots, for playing at cards and dice on the Sabbath; but it does not ap-

pear that he thus propitiated the inalienable good graces of the city clergy; for we find that, having brought a "railing accusation" against one of them, complaint was made to the Magistrates, who called a convocation of the inhabitants, before whom the Dean was ordered to appear, and "there tak his tongue in his hand, and say, 'False tongue he lied!'" The services of the Dean were of especial value to the Protestant clergy in 1669, when he was ordered by the Council and Guildry to see that "no Papist be admitted a Burgess of Guild," and to make every entrant swear, not only that he was a Protestant, but that "he will continue a Protestant for ever." In 1678, Quakers were also proscribed, and, in 1679, the Dean had the ungracious task assigned him, by the Kirk-Session, of demolishing the dykes of their burial-ground on the east side of the Gallowgate. By and by, duties like these became rather irksome, and ultimately he was relieved of them. Towards the middle of the eighteenth century, his office was more becoming the dignity of, we may say, the highest civil functionary in the city; and, as the citizens became more liberal and enlightened in their notions, so was his status appreciated, and the importance of his office realised. He is now the head of the Guild Court—represents a body of nearly 700 Burgesses—has charge of the assize of weights and measures—the power to judge as to the taking down of delapidated buildings—takes his seat at the Council Board and Police Commission, *ex officio*, and ranks next the Provost in point of honorary distinction. He is entitled to an officer, who is paid out of the Common

Good. Previous to 1833, the Dean was elected by the Magistrates and Council ; but since then he has been elected annually by the Burgesses, in terms of the Municipal Corporation Act. He is eligible for re-election, and a change of Dean generally takes place every two years.

THE GUILD COURT.—In 1609, the Magistrates and Council, in compliance with a request from the Brethren of Guild, established a Guild Court, which consisted of the Dean and four Assessors. This institution had at first but a very limited jurisdiction, but afterwards the Magistrates and Council constituted the Dean Judge of Assize, with authority to examine and stamp weights and measures ; and, although he had no powers of judicature, *ex officio*, in this matter, he frequently made a tour through the country, to prove them by a legal standard. In 1633, the duty of distributing the charities devolved upon the Assessors ; and, this duty being rather onerous, the number of Assessors was increased to twelve in 1637. In 1665, the Dean and his Court were authorised to inquire into the “qualifications of those claiming to be admitted Burgesses,” a standard of “life, conversation, and means,” being fixed by the Council. It would appear that, in so far as the standard of life amongst the Burgesses was concerned, sobriety was an essential element ; for, in Vol. lxi., p. 484, of the Council Records, we find an entry to the effect that, “the gentlemen going out to meet the Judges, and stopping at any public-house, the Dean of Guild is ordered to give them a moderate

glass *only*"; and, if any should transgress this law, the Guild Court was to sit in judgment upon the offence, and visit it with "ane punishment effeirand to the samen." In latter times, the jurisdiction of the Guild Court was merely ministerial, having reference chiefly to the examination of candidates for admission into the Guildry.

THE FUNDS OF THE GUILDRY.

The Funds of the Guildry are derived from rents and feu-duties of the Lands of Skene, the entry-moneys of the Burgesses, and other sources, and were apportioned amongst the following branches of ordinary and special revenue; but the entry-moneys of Burgesses are applied to the Additional Fund and the Common Good:—

1. Casualties.
2. Guild Wine.
3. Guild Box.
4. Additional Fund to Guild Box.
5. Arms Money.
6. Guild Brethren's Hospital.

The CASUALTIES signify the Common Good, they engrossed the whole entry-moneys from 1512 to 1616, and the payments to this source have always constituted by far the largest item of the entry-moneys.

The GUILD WINE account was opened on the 23d of January, 1582. From a very early period, it had been customary for entrant burgesses to entertain the

Magistrates and other friends with a banquet of wine. But it would seem that this practice had become so very expensive, that it was deemed advisable to give it up, and, in lieu of it, to charge the sum of four pounds Scots from every entrant for the benefit of the Common Good. In 1577, the fund was set apart for the relief of decayed burgesses. In 1612, a third part of the compositions of all extraneans was ordered to be employed for the common affairs of the Guildry, and "to no other purpose." From 1618 to 1660 there were 655 entrants—the disbursements were few; and the fund having been well husbanded, realized an interest of ten per cent.; it was then worth an annual revenue of nearly L.200 sterling. In 1670, five thousand merks were appropriated to the Common Good, but was repaid, by instalments, in the course of six years. In 1677, the lands of Sheddocksley were purchased for the use of the fund. In 1816, the market cross was rebuilt at the fund's expense. Amongst a curious variety of other things charged against the Guildry wine during the next century, were a black velvet suit for the Provost in 1743; and six gold chains for the other Magistrates of the burgh in 1795. From this time forward the charges against the fund were quite in keeping with its title, nearly the whole of the revenue being at times nearly expended for "wine and other entertainments"—while the other purposes for which it was established were in a great measure lost sight of. But the stock itself was never meddled with, and had accumulated, chiefly by fortunate investments, in the following ratio :—

	Money.	Land and Feu-Duty.	Total.	Revenue.
In 1780,.....	L.100.....	L.4252.....	L.4352.....	L.184 10
1833,.....	5798.....	5198.....	10996.....	470
1841,.....	5618.....	9200.....	14818.....	583 7

The **GUILD BOX** is a fund for the relief of decayed brethren. It was instituted in 1660, when a strong box was provided, and put under the charge of the Dean of Guild—other three, chosen by the Guildry, having each the custody of a key to it. The original contribution of entrants to this box was six shillings and eightpence Scots—the main dependence being upon voluntary contributions, “golden pennies,” and arles, which were considered the seal of bargain-making, and fines for “swearing, vowing, and taking the Lord’s name in vain.” The burgesses at this period appear to have been mostly engaged in maritime affairs, often at the sea themselves, and under special obligation to vow, in times of danger, that if they reached home in safety, they would give a donation to the Guild Box. Nevertheless, the revenue generally fell considerably short of the expenditure; and, among the expedients devised to replenish the exchequer, was the placing of a charity box in the Customhouse, which was opened yearly, and the contents counted in presence of the Guildry. From 1680 to 1708, L.9,000 Scots were mortified to the Guild Box, and invested in the purchase of half the barony of Easter Skene, two-tenths of the revenue of which belongs to the Guild Box. The stock of the Guild Box, in 1709, was estimated at L.1052 13s. 11d. sterling, from which a revenue of L.58 5s. 8d. was derived. In 1710,

the Town Council made an allocation and division of the revenue of the lands of Skene to the funds interested. In 1736, the revenue of the box was L.736 13s. 9d. Scots; the expenditure, L.880 13s. 4d.; super expenditure, L.143 19s. 7d. In these circumstances, it was resolved by the Council, in terms of an act of the Guild Court, to institute an

ADDITIONAL FUND TO THE GUILD BOX.—The resolutions upon which this fund are based provided that the Burgesses of Guild previously admitted, and who were able to pay the annual public burden, should contribute 4s. sterling per annum, or a composition of L.1 1s. in full, and that entrant burgesses should pay L.2 2s. In 1799, this sum was raised to L.3; in 1814, to L.17, which was the composition charged until 1839, when the rates of entry-moneys were established as in table annexed. The stock and revenue of the Guild Box were in

	Money.	Land and Feu-Duty.	Total.	Revenue.
1780,.....	£165 7	£1950 0 0	£2115	£71
1833,.....	5393 17 8	1867 10 0	8261 7 8	278 14
1841,.....	5312	3600	8912	356

The stock and revenue of the additional fund were—

	Money.	Land and Feu-Duty.	Total.	Revenue.
1780,.....	£1316 9 9	„	£1316 9 9	£57 12 1
1833,.....	11,446 15 9	„	11,446 15 9	451 4 0
1841,.....	13,850	„	13,850	553

The Guild Box was principally intended for decayed brethren. Since 1746, both boxes have been patent

to the wives and daughters of deceased burgesses, who receive an allowance proportioned to the amount of the revenue, each claim being considered and regulated by the Town Council.

ARMS-MONEY.—From an early period it had been customary for entrant burgesses to present to the town's armoury, on being admitted, a pack, a musket, and a bandoleer. In 1676, an act was passed by the Council, rendering this contribution optional, upon condition of a payment of ten merks. Hence the institution of the arms-money. From 1689 to 1746, it was strictly applied for purposes of war; but, in 1750, its destination was so far altered as to include the expense of an addition to the Town's House; and, since then, other charges of a similar kind have been paid out of it. In 1780, the fund was worth L.143 6s. 8d; in 1833, L.502 4s. 2d.

There is another fund, called "The Commissioners of Infestments Fund," instituted in 1671, but it was exhausted in 1763, chiefly upon certain repairs and additions to the Town's House—in return for which the rent of the shop (L.30) under the Town's House is placed to its credit. Besides several mortifications placed to the Guild Box account, there are two—one, L.100, by Robert Cruickshank; the other of 1000 merks, by Walter Cochrane—both specially destined—the interest of the former to a decayed burgess, that of the latter to decayed women, relations of mortifier being preferred. They are both exclusively under the charge of the Magistrates and Council.

The GUILD BRETHREN'S HOSPITAL was founded in 1459, by John Clatt, a canon of the Cathedral of Aberdeen and Brechin, "for the reception and maintenance of indigent persons." It was originally endowed by certain lands and tenements in the burgh; and it was supported by mortifications by Guild Brethren, "for the support of decayed burgesses." It was at first called St. Thomas's Hospital, but after the reformation it was called Guild Brethren's Hospital. In 1760, there was one inmate in the house, after which it was shut up, and the funds since then have been bestowed upon indigent burgesses' widows, &c., apportioned by the Dean of Guild and his assessors. The stock and revenue of the Hospital have accumulated by fortunate investment. They were worth in

	Money.	Land and Feu-Duty.	Total.	Revenue.
1780,.....	£476 9 2	£6476 15	£7953 4 2	£271 12 0
1833,.....	9277	3864	13,141 11 9	513 15 6
1841,.....	9312	5191	14,509 10 0	575 1 6

These funds are entered under an account entitled "Hospital Charge," and, with other funds at the disposal of the Council, are nominally managed by an officer in the Council of long standing, called "Master of Guild Brethren's Hospital."

It is rather curious to observe how the number of entrant Burgesses of Guild fluctuate in different years. For example, from 1792 to 1814, the total number entered was 553; the lowest number entered in one year being 2, in 1794; the highest, 45, in 1813;

while, in 1815, no fewer than 213 burgesses were made. The total number entered from that period till 1833, was 540; the fewest entries being 1, in 1816; and the highest, 74, in 1833. The total number in the list now is nearly 700.

ANNUITIES TO DECAYED BURGESSES, &c.

The annuities paid to decayed burgesses' widows, children, and other relations, from the Guild Box, Additional Fund, and Guild Brethren's Hospital, were—

In 1833—To 88 burgesses,.....	£525	average, £6	1	7
„ 72 widows,.....	379	do.	5	5 3½
„ 49 children,.....	219	do.	4	9 4½
„ 28 widows on } Council aid,..... }	54 10s.	do.	1	18 11

Total amount paid, L.1187 10s.; the lowest allowance being L.2, and the highest L.12. General average, L.5 " 2½d.

In 1841 (the average payments being nearly the same as above), the total amount paid was L.1320 10s.; besides L.593 from various mortified funds under the charge of the Council, chiefly to widows and children of burgesses.

The composition, or rates of entry-money, have been variously fixed by the Magistrates and Council, and space would fail us to give even an outline of the discussions which have taken place from time to time on this point. Suffice it to say, that the present rates

are as under, and that they seem to give very general satisfaction to the burgesses :—

Rates of Composition payable by Entrant Burgesses of Guild—Established by Acts of Council of 25th March, 1839, and 1st February, 1841.

BURGESSES OF GUILD.	Amount of Composition.	HOW APPROPRIATED.	
		Additional Fund to Guild Box.	Common Good.
CLASS.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
1. Extraneans,.....	35 0 0	20 0 0	15 0 0
2. Apprentices and Sons-in-law of Burgesses,	0		
3. Sons and Burgesses admitted subsequent to 25th March, 1839,	30 0 0	20 0 0	10 0 0
4. Sons of all other Burgesses, except those mentioned in classes 3 and 5,.....	15 0 0	10 0 0	5 0 0
5. Sons of Burgesses who paid £50 or £40 of composition,.....	12 0 0	10 0 0	2 0 0
	10 0 0	8 0 0	2 0 0

THE INCORPORATED TRADES.

THE history of the Incorporated Trades of Aberdeen is curious and instructive.

Warton says, "In early ages trade was principally carried on by means of fairs, which lasted several days. The merchants, who frequented these fairs in numerous caravans or companies, employed every art

to draw the people together. They were accompanied by jugglers, minstrels, and buffoons, when few large towns existed. No public spectacles, or popular amusements, were established; and, as the sedentary pleasures of domestic life were yet unknown, the fair-time was the season for diversion. By degrees, the clergy, observing that these entertainments made the people less religious, proscribed these sports, and excommunicated the performers; but, finding that no regard was paid to their censures, they changed their plan, and determined to take these recreations into their own hands. They turned actors, and, instead of profane mummeries, presented stories taken from the "legends of the Bible."

By and by, these plays came to be acted by the various artificers in the different towns of the kingdom, and those of Aberdeen seem to have taken a leading part in carrying them out. From simple representations of historical pieces, performed within doors, the dramas were extended to public pageants, the ordering of which fell to the Magistrates and Council, who selected the two principal characters from among themselves, and, by act of Council, obliged the trades to provide the subordinate performers. In 1442, an ordinance was passed, by which the trades were bound to make provision for the following portion of the *dramatis personæ* :—

LITSTERS.—An Emperor, two Doctors, and as many honest Squires as they could find.

SMITHS AND HAMMERMEN.—Three Kings of Culane, and as many Squires as they could muster.

TAILORS.—Our Lady Saint Bride, Saint Helen, Joseph, Squires, &c.

SKINNERS.—Two Bishops, four Angels, and Squires.

WEBSTERS AND WAULKERS.—Symon and his disciples, and as many honest Squires as possible.

CORDWAINERS.—Messenger and Moses, honest Squires, &c.

FLESHERS.—Two or four Woodmen and honest Squires.

These pageants generally mustered at Woolmanhill, and marched through the town upon Candlemas day, and other holiday occasions, with music and banners. They continued for a long period, and were often a source of great irregularity and strife to the citizens. After the Reformation they changed their character, and the trades ultimately settled down into local companies, each body or trade having more useful interests of its own to engross its attention. Perhaps, however, when the working-classes now muster in public procession, as “honest squires,” “kings,” and “emperors,” few of them are aware of the origin of such pageantry, and fewer still imagine that they are then perpetuating the relics of the age of superstition, the thick mists of which have long been dispelled by the enlightenment of truth. The clergy have wisely dispensed with the services of “Moses” and the “Angels”—the trades should not reflect upon their own intelligence by retaining now our “Lady Saint Bride.”

The Incorporations comprise seven trades, viz. :—the bakers, incorporated in 1398; the fleshers, in 1444; the weavers, in 1449; the shoemakers, in 1484;

the tailors, in 1511; the hammermen, in 1519; the wrights and coopers, in 1527. They obtained their seal of cause from the Magistrates and Council, and had their corporate privileges ratified by charter from the Crown.

From a very early period there were differences between the Trades and Burgesses of Guild, chiefly about the extent of their respective trading privileges; but ultimately that point was harmoniously settled by arbitration, and now the craftsmen are privileged to "buy and sell all manner of Scottish wares within the kingdom," especially those of their own manufacture, with certain exceptions.

The Trades have all along kept a jealous eye on the conduct of the Magistrates, and on several occasions their influence was severely felt at the Council Board. Now they have no representative there; but their Convener is entitled to a seat *ex officio* at the Board of Police, and they are empowered by act of Parliament to elect a representative to look after their interest in the Harbour Trust.

These Incorporations have always been distinguished for their loyalty. In 1411, when Donald of the Isles threatened to make an attack upon Aberdeen, they joined the citizens, under the command of Provost Davidson, and fought bravely in the field of Harlaw. In that memorable day many of them were slain, while those who survived returned with trophies of victory, and even now exhibit them, especially their swords, on high occasions, with becoming *eclat*. The wrights and coopers, however, were foolish enough to

return their sword to Lochiel, and in exchange got a silver-mounted dirk, which they still retain.

THE RESOURCES OF THE INCORPORATIONS.—In 1632, Dr. William Guild, one of the ministers of Aberdeen, founded an Hospital for the indigent brethren; and by charter, dated June, 1633, he granted to the “freemen artificers of the town” the monastery which formerly belonged to the Monks of the Holy Trinity. This property, which, in 1211, constituted the residence of King William when he visited the town, and was bestowed by him on the Monks, was then of considerable value, and the foundation was confirmed by a royal charter from King Charles I. The Town Council voted in support of the Hospital two hundred merks, to be paid yearly for five years, and the several corporations contributed the following sums Scotch :—

The Hammermen,	L.531	6	8
The Bakers,	200	0	0
The Wrights and Coopers,	360	0	0
The Tailors,	200	0	0
Thos. Gordon, Deacon, Convener of do.,	139	0	0
The Cordwainers,	239	6	8
Thomas Ardes' Bond,	70	0	0
The Weavers,	305	6	8
The Fleshers,	262	13	4

The buildings were then repaired, and the asylum placed under the charge of an officer entitled the Master of Hospital. Soon after this a public hall was built, with a porch fronting the street; and alto-

gether the buildings were considered very ornamental to the city. The institution was placed under the superintendence of the founder, who was chosen patron, and its affairs were administered by the Convener and his Court. Dr. Guild also granted to the trade a tenement, on the south side of Castle Street, the yearly rents of which were to be set apart as bursaries to the sons of tradesmen who wished to avail themselves of a course of education at Marischal College. The fund yields as much now as educates eight to ten youths. Besides the grants by Dr. Guild, whose memory is justly revered by the Incorporation, other bequests have been added, and the Trades' Hospital, from good management and the local improvement of property, has become a very valuable institution. The trades have also a most excellent school, where a liberal and enlightened system of education is taught.

In 1771, the Incorporation instituted a widows' fund, which has also been a prosperous institution. L.1000 sterling was bequeathed to this fund by Dr. Martin of London, whose father was a member of the Bakers' Incorporation; and, in 1816, a supplementary fund was constituted by Convener John Leslie, which was opened in 1828, and the stock of which is now very valuable.

These funds are administered by the Convener and his Court, which is composed of thirty-three members, viz., the Convener and his predecessor in office, the Master of Hospital, the seven Deacons, and the seven who served for the preceding year, the seven Boxmasters, and Master from each Cor-

poration, and two Councillors. The Convener and Master of Hospital are elected annually, by the ordinary members of whom the Court is composed, and the other members are sent as delegates from the respective Corporations.

Besides these general institutions, in which all the Corporations have a common interest, each possesses its own peculiar stock and revenues, appropriated to the relief of decayed members, widows, and orphans immediately connected with it.

These funds, during the year 1837, amounted to L.2622, which were distributed according to the rates fixed by each Corporation, independently of the others, among 145 superannuated members, 150 widows (the same who received the benefit of the general fund and of the widows' funds), and 156 orphans.

The following table will show the proportion of these funds, and their objects appertaining to each trade:—

		Superannuated		Widows. Orphans.	
		Members.			
Hammermen,.....	L.913	23	40	43	
Bakers,.....	237	13	18	12	
Wrights and Coopers,	450	33	23	17	
Tailors,.....	437	26	20	25	
Shoemakers,	268	33	20	22	
Weavers,.....	180	13	15	12	
Fleshers,.....	137	13	14	25	
	L.2622	154	150	156	


The amount of entry-money in the different trades varies from L.20 to L.105, with a condition that the entrant must be a practical tradesman of the craft he enters with.

The composition paid by Trades Burgesses to the town is as under :—

BURGESSES OF TRADE.	Amount of Compo- sition.	HOW PAID.						HOW APPLIED.		
		On Receiving Remit.			On passing p. Common Indenture.			Common Good.		
CLASS	L. S. D.	L. S. D.	L. S. D.	L. S. D.	L. S. D.	L. S. D.	L. S. D.			
1. Extraneans, ~~~~	15 0 0	8 6 8	6 13 4	15 0 0						
2. Apprentices, ~~~~	8 6 8	5 0 0	3 6 8	8 6 8						
3. Sons-in-law, ~~~~	6 6 8	5 0 0	1 6 8	6 6 8						
4. Younger Sons of Craftsmen, ~}	3 6 8	2 0 0	1 6 8	3 6 8						
5. Eldest Sons of Craftsmen, ~}	2 0 0	2 0 0	..	2 0 0						

CHAPTER III.

THE HARBOUR OF ABERDEEN.

HE Harbour of Aberdeen appears to have been at one time what sailors call "the bight of a bay." We have very early intimation of its being used as anchorage ground; and, from the fact that, in 1298, "a numerous fleet" of English war vessels was "stationed in the harbour," we may infer that the depth of water was then very considerable. This inference is well supported by a discovery made by the workmen employed in digging the basin of the Aberdeenshire Canal, of anchors, chains, and fragments of ships, far below the surface.

By and by, from the action of the Dee and the flood tides, an accumulation of alluvial matter would naturally be formed; and, if Smeaton be correct in his conjecture, that "the angle of the coast at the harbour mouth" was formed "by the drift of sand by the north-east wind," the landward part of the bay must have filled up, and the basin of the harbour been narrowed to a very small compass. The entrance to the port was so contracted by 1350, that *booms* (a kind of gates) were erected upon it, intended, no doubt, to keep the basin quiet during easterly gales. In these circumstances,

it is not difficult to trace the formation of the Inches and the low lands of Footdee, nor to account for the fact that, in 1618, "there was scarcely two feet water on the bar at low tide, at spring tides fifteen feet, and at neap tides from nine to ten feet," as mentioned by Philopoliteus, p. 214.

A sort of breastwork had been constructed as a quay, from Shorebrae eastward, so early as 1484, the landing place of which is noticed in the Council Records, as having been repaired by order of the Council. In 1527, the quay head was enlarged; and, by 1543, the foreign trade of the port had increased so much that dues had to be levied on goods imported and exported, with a view to the farther improvement of the harbour. The first dues levied was by a uniform rate of eightpence Scotch per ton; but afterwards a varied rate was imposed, chiefly upon "victual" and "salmon;" and so well were the funds husbanded that, in 1607, a pier was erected on the south entry to the harbour at considerable expense. In 1618, a large stone, called "Knock Maitland," was removed from the channel. In 1623, the Magistrates proposed an extension of the quay to the eastward; and the proposal was so popular that the citizens generally volunteered a certain amount of labour; the Burgesses assessed themselves L.1000, and the corporations subscribed individually towards the erection. In 1658 the work was completed, and the city was so far improved at the time, by having a large drain carried through the pier into the tide-way. This drain formed part of the general improvement of the harbour. From 1658 to 1686, the harbour was improved

in various respects, the expense of which was defrayed by the dues and voluntary subscription. In 1755, Mr. John Smeaton, civil engineer, was consulted, at whose suggestion the Pocra Quay was erected; and, in 1770, Mr. Smeaton submitted to the Council a detailed report of a survey of the harbour, with a plan of improvement on a pretty extensive scale. To remove the bar and deepen the channel, he proposed to erect a pier on the north side of the entrance. The proposal met with general approbation; and, in 1773, an act of Parliament was obtained, authorising the Magistrates and Council to proceed with the work, and to impose certain additional dues upon shipping and goods to defray the necessary expense. On Monday, June 5, 1775, the foundation stone of the pier was laid, and in 1781 it was finished, at a cost of L.18,000. It extended from the Sandness (near the Pocra Quay) thirteen hundred feet eastward, with a small curve towards the south. It was Mr. Smeaton's wish to build the pier considerably nearer the south side of the entrance; but in this he was disappointed; and, finding that the width of the channel occasioned a "run" in the harbour, he suggested the erection of a stone jetty, to break the sea from the east. He reported favourably of this expedient, but doubts have since then been expressed as to its practical utility, and a proposal is now before the Trustees for its removal. The next engineer consulted was Mr. John Rennie, who approved highly of Mr. Smeaton's plans, and proposed, as a farther improvement, the construction of wet docks, and other improvements, in the interior. In 1810, Mr. Telford, engineer, was employed to

survey the harbour, and submit a plan of improvement. He proposed a farther extension of the north pier—to construct wet docks and graving docks, chiefly on the north side—and to break the rapidity of the river by cutting a fresh channel, which is called the Spillwater. This plan met with great opposition; but the Magistrates and Council being unanimous, and a considerable portion of the citizens being favourable to it, an act of Parliament was obtained to carry it out, authorising the Magistrates and Council, as Trustees, to borrow L.140,000, on the security of the harbour dues. This was inclusive of the debts contracted in virtue of various acts. The act was modified in part in 1813. The first work, under Mr. Telford's plan, was the erection of the north pier, which occupied five years in building, and was carried out nine hundred feet, making, with Mr. Smeaton's projection, a length of quay of upwards of two thousand feet, including the breakwater. On the south side of the entrance, a diagonal breakwater was also built; and, soon after, a line of quay (Waterloo Quay) was commenced along the north side of the interior of the harbour, for the accommodation of the shipping. The spillwater channel was also partly cut, and the general outline of Mr. Telford's plan (except the docks) otherwise carried out. In 1829, a new act of Parliament was obtained, to enable the Trustees to complete the works in progress, by which they were empowered to raise £200,000, including the debt due under the previous act. The act of 1829 was to continue in force till 1850; but, if the works were not finished by 1841, the Trustees could then only execute such details as were

absolutely necessary for the safety and efficiency of the harbour. In September, 1837, it was unanimously resolved, at a meeting of the Trustees, that the "harbour, with its adjuncts, be thoroughly examined and surveyed by an engineer or engineers of eminence and experience," and soon after, Mr. James Walker of London was employed, in terms of the said resolution. In January, 1838, Mr. Walker inspected the harbour, and, having otherwise made himself acquainted with the subject, presented a report and plan in April. He proposed to convert the upper part of the harbour into a dock, by a lock "220 feet long, by 60 feet wide," the "inner or west end of which" to be placed "a little to the east of Church Street," and the outer end "450 feet west of Wellington Street." This dock was to have an area of 12 acres, and a "quay frontage of 2700 feet." He proposed another dock above Regent Bridge, which was also to contain an area of 12 acres, and "a length of 3,000 feet of quay frontage." The two docks were estimated to contain accommodation for 240 "ships of 300 tons burden, and 5700 feet in length of quay room." The tidal harbour below the docks would have had "quay of 2200 feet in length." The estimated expense of this plan was £85,000; contingencies, £15,000; in all, £100,000. The plan was approved of by the Trustees, and appeared to meet with the general approbation of the public; but, in August, another scheme was propounded by Messrs. George Hogarth, Alexander Pirie, and William Read, merchants and manufacturers, by which it was proposed to "convert the Inches, along with the present site of the river and of the spillwater, into a wet dock,

and to cut a channel sufficient for all the water through the land on the south side of the present spill-water." The plan by these gentlemen "shows a dock of eighty acres;" the "north side, for a width of 350 feet," or an area of thirty-two acres, to be cut first. The entrance basin to be at Point Law, and a bridge was proposed to be built "on the line of Church Street," and a lock for the accommodation of small vessels, to be placed "between the harbour and the dock at the upper end." The depth of the dock was calculated at nineteen feet in spring tides. The depth of Mr. Walker's, from the sill of the lock, was to be twenty-one feet; "but, from the bottom of the dock, seventeen feet." Mr. Walker's estimate of Messrs. Hogarth, Pirie, and Read's plan, was £185,000, with £60,000 to £70,000 additional, for the purchase of the salmon fishings; and, in a second report, Mr. Walker gave it as his opinion that it would not be expedient to adopt it, even could the funds of the Trust allow it. He viewed the site proposed with jealousy; but doubted the prudence of "cutting up the whole web, the only one that was to clothe the family for future generations, into one great garment of the present fashion." After the promulgation of Messrs. Pirie, &c.'s plan, the merits of both schemes were discussed afresh; and, a new element having been introduced—the revisal of the Table of Rates, to which objections were taken by several parties—the Trustees were opposed in Parliament, after the second reading of the bill. Evidence was led in Committee, and Counsel was heard on both sides, when the following resolution was come to:—"It appears to the Com-

mittee, in applying to Parliament for powers to carry the proposed measure into effect, the Trustees were warranted in the belief that they were acting in conformity to the general opinion of the inhabitants ; but the case made out by the parties opposed to the bill is such as to induce us to come to an unanimous decision against it. It seems to us desirable that the powers already possessed by the Trustees should be applied to the removal of the nuisance occasioned by the sewers in the upper harbour ; and we hope that, whenever it shall hereafter appear advisable to make application to Parliament for another bill, due time may be given to the inhabitants maturely to consider it." The question of erecting a public sewer to carry away the intolerable stench which arises from the bottom of the upper part of the harbour formed an essential element of Mr. Walker's plan. Here the matter rests at present ; but a proposal is now on the table of the Trustees to take up the matter again, and in such a way as may prevent jarring in carrying out a general improvement of the harbour. Whatever be the issue, the harbour funds can ill afford another contested measure, seeing that a sum of not less than L.10,764 13s. 8d. has already been expended on five bills, three of which were disputed, and two lost. It is time, one would imagine, to go to work unitedly, when we have paid so dearly for division.

THE MANAGEMENT OF THE HARBOUR.—The harbour is the property of the corporation of Aberdeen. Previous to 1829, it was managed exclusively by the Magistrates and Council ; but that year there was an

act passed by which the system of management was so far modified as to include, in conjunction with them, as Trustees, five Burgesses of Guild and one member of the Incorporated Trades. These are what are called the elective Trustees—in popular phrase, “the life-blood of the Trust.” They are elected biennially by the respective bodies they represent. The business of the harbour is virtually managed by a Committee, annually elected by the General Board, and sits once a fortnight. The General Board meets quarterly, and practically takes the character of a court of review. Since the passing of the Act of 1810, the harbour accounts have been under the charge of a treasurer and clerks, and altogether the business of the harbour has been conducted as a distinct establishment. Besides the officers of the harbour office, there was appointed, in 1840, a resident engineer whose services, in connexion with the internal improvements of the harbour, are considered to be highly important.

THE REVENUE OF THE HARBOUR.—The revenue of the harbour is chiefly derived from three sources, viz. :—Shore and Harbour Dues, Rents and Feu-duties, and Ballast sold to shipping. To show, at one view, the rise, progress, and present state of each and all of these branches, we have collated the following table from documents kindly furnished by the harbour authorities :—

ORDINARY REVENUE.

	Shipping and Goods Inwards.	On Goods Outwards.	For Rents and Fees.	Cash for Ballast.	Sundries.	Total.
1812	£6,310	£*	£902	£320	£2	£7,534
1820	7,711	...	1,049	521	10	9,291
1830	10,744	...	1,083	517	2	12,346
1834	7,587	3,796	983	927	76	13,309
1835	8,059	3,994	938	1,000	8	13,999
1836	8,632	4,530	1,103	1,041	77	15,377
1837	9,590	4,182	1,084	829	87	15,772
1838	9,944	3,853	1,150	1,275	127	18,349
1839	10,766	4,676	1,156	1,327	132	18,057
1840	10,914	4,601	1,178	1,400	218	18,311
1841	11,154	5,164	1,317	1,277	101	19,013

ORDINARY EXPENDITURE.

	On General Purposes.	On New Works.	For Interest on Moneys Borrowed.	Total.
1812	£1,710	£28,859	£2,563	£33,132
1820	701	1,957	6,272	8,930
1830	1,106	30,000	4,229	35,335
1834	1,131	5,412	7,062	13,605
1835	1,234	7,362	6,812	15,408
1836	1,179	9,224	6,352	16,755
1837	1,385	7,835	6,729	15,949
1838	1,563	9,226	7,150	17,939
1839	3,064	6,450	7,228	16,742
1840	3,735	2,271	7,204	13,210
1841	4,559	5,891	7,191	17,641

Besides these, there are three other accounts kept by the Harbour Office, viz. :—The Towage Account, the Patent Slip Account, and the Pilotmaster's Account.

* In the Accounts for the years 1812, 1820, 1830, the dues on goods inwards and outwards are not entered separately in the Harbour Accounts.

For some years the towage account yielded a fair return ; but lately there has been a heavy loss upon it, and just now the Trustees are advertising for parties to supply towage at their own risk, the Board granting certain privileges by way of encouragement. The two steamers, "Paul Jones" and "Sea Horse," are also for sale. They involved an original outlay of L.10,000. The Patent Slip is now yielding a small profit, and the Pilotmaster's Account has always paid itself.

The property of the Harbour Trust, from which the above rents and feu-duties are drawn, consists of houses purchased at Footdee, with a view to the improvement of the Harbour, and of ground reclaimed from the tide. If Waterloo Quay were once feued, the revenue from that source would be considerable.

The debt upon the harbour is L.175,000, while the total amount laid out on improvements from 1810 to 1840 was L.210,000.

IMPORT AND EXPORT TRADE.

IN Macpherson's Commerce, Vol. I., page 332, mention is made of Aberdeen having been known upon the Continent, during the eleventh century, as a trading port. So early as the year 1200, it exported to the Netherlands salmon, wool, hides, and wool fells ; and, in return, imported salt, wine, iron, and other commodities adapted to domestic purposes. The import trade would seem to have predominated ; for the Bur-

gesses of Guild, who were privileged to trade beyond seas, were taken bound to bring home "two tons of goods for each three sacks exported," the same proportion applying to their exports of fish and hides. Salmon, stock fish, and red herrings appear to have been the staple articles of trade in those days; for, in 1281, a ship, fitted out at Garmouth to convey the infant Queen of Scotland from the court of her father, the King of Norway, was supplied with a large quantity of various kinds of fish by merchants in Aberdeen; and, in 1299, they furnished to the army of Edward I., "18,500 red herrings, and 5,496 stock fish." In the course of the next century, the foreign trade was more varied and extensive, vessels having arrived from Brabant, Flanders, Holland, and other towns on the Continent, with "cargoes of grain, maschlou, malt, flax, and fruit," taking in barter, in addition to the staples already mentioned, large quantities of pickled pork.

In process of time, the wool, which at first was exported in the raw state, was manufactured into cloth; and we have intimation, in the accounts presented in 1434 to the Great Chamberlain for Scotland, of a considerable amount of customs revenues derived from exports of "wool fells" and "woollen cloth." During the next century, the exports consisted chiefly of plaiden, fingrams, stuffs, serges, and stockings; and the imports, of wine, brandy, sugar, tobacco, soap, iron, slates, warlike stores, and manufactured goods. In one year, 30,000 lamb skins were exported to Dantzic; and, in the year ending 1651, no fewer than 73,358 ells of plaiden were exported to Campvere and Dantzic.

The returns for these exports were both in money and goods; and, as a proof that the foreign trade of the city was then very extensive, Sir Patrick Drummond, then conservator in Holland, used to remark that "Scotland was more obliged to the town of Aberdeen for returns in money for its trade than to all the other towns in the kingdom." To give something like a definite idea of the extent of the trade of the port, about the close of this century, we may state that the return of customs and excise to the Crown by Aberdeen, after the Reformation, was estimated at thirty thousand pounds Scots, or L.2,000 sterling, a very large sum in those days.

The wars that prevailed during the eighteenth century damaged the foreign trade considerably, but the coasting trade improved, and at the peace, in 1814, it was very considerable. By this time, our intercourse with England, which had all along been pretty profitable and extensive, enabled our merchants to make up for the loss of their foreign trade; so that, while the value of our foreign exports had decreased in fifty years from L.250,000, or L.300,000, to L.88,049 in 1816, our coasting trade had risen from a comparatively trifling amount to L.500,000, the customs duties alone for that year being L.17,000 sterling.

We shall now give some details illustrative of the state of our import and export trade about the close of the war, and in 1841. They will serve also as an index to the general condition of our manufactures and commerce; and, for all practical purposes, will

supply the place of minute calculations under these heads :—

IMPORTS.

The principal articles imported during the years 1817 and 1841 were these :—

	1817.	1841.
Wheat, bolls,	7,677	13,100 qrs.
Flour, sacks,	3,408	7,871
Barley, bolls,	4,768	321 qrs.
Coals, bolls,	221,170	471,028
Wool, tons,	250	1,275
Salt, bushels,	27,121	93,139
Flax, cwt.,	32,743	44,725
Lime, bolls,	60,053	74,657
Tobacco & snuff, lbs.,	236,250	150,734
Tea, lbs.,	240,323	247,215
Sugar, cwt.,	21,080	26,339
Cotton, lbs.,	587,931	3,189,760

We have no data to carry the comparison farther ; but the following, compiled from the Customhouse returns, will serve to show the amount of our trade in other details for the last five years. The first table contains the number of vessels and tonnage of goods entered inwards since 1837 :—

1837,	1809 ships,	144,129 tons.
1838,	1528 „	156,195 „
1839,	1541 „	163,573 „
1840,	1608 „	177,318 „
1841,	1520 „	171,413 „

These were imports coastwise, and contained, besides the goods above enumerated for 1841, 5805 tons of iron.

The following are the quantities of the principal articles imported and delivered from Warehouse for home consumption :—

Apples, value, L.1229.	Tares, 529 quarters.
Bark, 1663 cwt.	Tar, 114 barrels.
Beer, spruce, 271 barrels.	Vinegar, 45 gallons.
Bones, value, L.13,189.	Spirits, viz., Geneva, 381 gals.
Butter, 9 cwt.	Brandy, 1391 do.
Cheese, 1055 cwt.	Rum, 626 do.
Coffee, 71,908 lbs.	Wine, viz., Portugal, 9521 do.
Clover seed, 1336 cwt.	Spanish, 9570 do.
Corn, viz., flour, 45 cwt.	other sorts, 2248 do.
pease, 258 quarters.	Wood, viz., Battens, 50 : 1 : 21
beans, 174 do.	Deals, American, 59 : 2 : 9
Feathers, 20 cwt.	Foreign, 12 : 0 : 17
Grass seed, 19 cwt.	Oak Knees, 37 loads.
Hemp, 10,816 cwt.	Oak Plank, 97 do.
Iron, 143 tons.	Masts, 87 loads and 351 pieces.
Linseed, 94 quarters.	Staves, 412 : 1 : 8.
Hats, value, L.170.	Timber, Fir, American, 4874
Oil, Olive, 998 gallons.	loads.
Pitch, 60 cwt.	Foreign, 220 loads.
Quills, 623,300.	Oak, American, 724 do.
Rags, 111 tons.	Foreign, 431 do.
Raisins, 110 cwt.	Hardwood, American, 1647 do.

A comparison with 1840 exhibits a decrease on spruce beer, bones of cattle, iron, tar, tares, corn, timber and wood, tobacco, and wines; and an increase on bark, cheese, flax, hemp, coffee, spirits, sugar, and tea.

Our foreign imports were :—

1839,	150 ships,	17,767 tons.
1840,	158 "	19,456 "
1841,	126 "	19,182 "

The principal items of which are included in the above table, excepting 435 tons of bones of cattle brought from the Continent.

EXPORTS.

The number of vessels, and amount of tonnage goods, which cleared at the Customhouse with cargoes, exclusive of vessels laden with stone and lime, of the steamers from Leith *via* Aberdeen to Inverness and Lerwick, and of the trade between Aberdeen and Peterhead, were :—

1837,	839 ships,	82,175 tons.
1838,	841 "	96,762 "
1839,	718 "	98,541 "
1840,	862 "	103,723 "
1841,	1,025 "	127,150 "

The principal articles sent coastwise during the year ended 30th June, 1841, were these :—

Linen, manufactured,	32,857 barrel bulk.
Cotton, do.	20,847 "
Woollen, do.	20,283 "
Oats, barley, and bear,	44,447 quarters.
Meal,	20,300 bolls.

Cattle, 6608; horses, 86; sheep, 1148; pigs, 3040; butter, 11,081 cwt.; eggs, 7558 barrel bulk; pork, 6033 cwt.; porter, 3021 barrel bulk; stones (granite), 24,234 tons; salmon, 4681 barrel bulk.

 THE SHIPPING INTEREST.

THE maritime commerce of Aberdeen can be traced to a very early period in the history of Scotland. If we are correct in our conjecture, that the Guildry is modelled after the Hanseatic associations of Hamburg and Lubec, we may thence infer that the maritime trade of Aberdeen laid the foundation of its future

greatness. At all events, it is certain that, in the course of the twelfth century, our merchants did a good deal of business with the principal towns of the opposite continent, and possessed a number of vessels, which were exclusively engaged in the foreign trade.

We are not able to enumerate the strength of our local shipping at this period, nor for many years afterwards; but it would appear from the fact of a vessel belonging to this port having been lost at Scarborough, on the coast of England, in 1541, with twenty-eight persons on board, that some of our ships must then have been of pretty large dimensions. About this time several Aberdeen vessels were taken by the English, which led to reprisals, by detaining English ships in our harbour; and, from the correspondence that took place between our Magistrates and the English Government regarding these reprisals, we would infer that several of the Aberdeen ships were about three hundred tons burthen.

Ships for warfare, in the early ages, were only fitted out in Scotland on emergencies, when every Royal Burgh contributed a proportional share. In 1475, four ships were fitted out at Aberdeen for the King's service; but, when we state that the largest and most expensive of the four only cost L.176 11s. 3d. sterling, including the price of "guns, culverines, ammunition, and other warlike stores," it will be inferred that the navy altogether had not been of a very formidable character. In 1589, the liberality of the citizens again stretched a point, having that year fitted out a ship called the *Nicholas*, at an expense of L.200, to form part of a squadron intended to convey King

James from Denmark, where he had formed a matrimonial alliance with the daughter of Frederiek II. When this vessel left the harbour she was decorated with "ensigns, flags, and streamers of war, red side-cloths, and gilded tops." She was commanded by one of the *Baillies* of the town, who had L.20 sterling allowed him for contingent charges.

In consequence of the civil war which prevailed during the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries, and other causes, our maritime commerce declined, and did not revive for many years. In 1656, there were only nine vessels, or 400 tons, belonging to the port, viz., one of 80, one of 70, three of 50, two of 30, and one of 20 tons each. In 1692 there were only 2 galliots of 30 tons each.

From the commencement of the eighteenth century the shipping interests of Aberdeen rallied again; and, during the late war, our shipowners furnished a good deal of transport accommodation. The coasting trade also improved, and the town itself having become the metropolis of the north, a large *in transit* business was carried on by our merchants, which led to the employment of an increased amount of shipping.

In the year 1812, there belonged to the port of Aberdeen 140 vessels, 19,139 tons; in the year 1818, 237 vessels, or 36,471 tons, of the following burthen per register :—

50 tons, and not exceeding 100 tons,	75 vessels.
100 do., and not exceeding 200 do.	103 "
200 do. and upwards,	59 "
<hr/>	
Total,	237 vessels.

Since then the trade has, upon the whole, progressed, as shown by the following tables :—

Number of Vessels and Tonnage belonging to Aberdeen, from 1822 to 1841.

Year.	No. of Vessels.	Tonnage.	Year.	No. of Vessels.	Tonnage.
1822	221	34,729	1833	191	28,096
1823	208	33,283	1834	176	26,489
1824	198	31,460	1835	173	26,063
1825	198	30,771	1836	175	27,274
1826	209	31,671	1837	172	26,677
1827	219	33,196	1838	177	28,960
1828	218	33,572	1839	185	31,063
1829	221	32,858	1840	192	32,361
1830	217	32,497	1841	218	38,979
1831	209	30,460	1842	224	41,620
1832	203	30,392			

Abstract of Vessels belonging to Aberdeen, January, 1841 :—

From	— to	40 Tons Register,	No. of Vessels.
		Register,	8
"	40	" 60	8
"	60	" 80	14
"	80	" 100	15
"	100	" 120	27
"	120	" 140	26
"	140	" 160	32
"	160	" 180	20
"	180	" 200	13
"	200	" 220	10
"	220	" 240	5
"	240	" 260	6
"	260	" 280	3
"	280	" 300	6
"	300	" 350	12
"	350	" 400	5

From 400 to 500 Tons Register,	4
" 500 " 600 " 	1
Above 600 " 	3
Total,	218

No. of vessels, 218—total tonnage,	38,979
In 1840, No. of vessels, 192—total tonnage,	32,361
Increase,	26
	6,618

The increase in 1842 over 1841 was 6 vessels, 2641 tons.

These include the steamers, which measure as under :—

City of Aberdeen (London trade),	961 tons.
Duke of Wellington, do.	580 "
Duchess of Sutherland, do.	717 "
Queen of Scotland (Aberdeen and Hull trade),	530 "
Duke of Richmond (Leith and Inverness),	485 "
Velocity (Aberdeen and Leith),	256 "
Bonnie Dundee, do.	295 "
Sovereign (Leith, Aberdeen, Wick, & Orkney),	450 "
Harlequin (Montrose and Peterhead),	120 "
	4090

Besides the towage boats, which measure :—

Sea Horse,	161 tons.
Paul Jones,	90 "
	251

Making in all, four thousand three hundred and forty-one tons of steam vessels, and thirty-six thousand three hundred and forty-one tons of sailing vessels, as the shipping of the port; but, if we add the tonnage of a few vessels now almost ready for launching, the total amount will be considerably

upwards of forty thousand tons, which are thus employed :—

	Vessels.	Tons.
In the Foreign Trade,.....	35.....	10,253
In the Baltic Trade,	45.....	8,088
In the American Trade,	23.....	7,425
In the Coasting Trade,	127.....	9,867

These figures, however, can only be considered as a close approximation to the amount of tonnage employed in the different trades. Properly speaking, we have but a very few vessels exclusively trading abroad, and not a few of those accustomed to trade to the Baltic are occasionally employed coasting. A good many are carrying copper ore from St. Jago de Cuba to Swansea.

In the coasting trade, the London steamers and smacks carry off the largest share. The steamers superseded the sailing smacks that used to trade regularly between Aberdeen and London, before steam navigation became common; but, during the last few years, four clipper schooners, built after a new model, which combines quick sailing with large burthen, have proved a formidable opposition.

SHIP-BUILDING.

THE first vessels built at Aberdeen were after the model of the Dutch galliot. These galliots were round sterned, and sailed upon a very light draught of water. The square-sterned vessels were introduced from France during the fourteenth century, and soon

after became general. About the same time that the square sterns became common, vessels were built upon a larger draught of water than formerly, and the fishing smacks of England seem to have furnished a model for improvement in the general construction of most of the coasting craft. Vessels for the foreign trade do not appear to have been built at Aberdeen at a very early period, those belonging to the port in the fifteenth century having been chiefly purchased in the Levant.

Aberdeen was a shipping port long before it was a ship-building port, and, from all we can gather, we think its ship-building interest only became of some note towards the close of the eighteenth century. Early in the present century, vessels of considerable size were built; and, in 1816, six building-yards were in full operation. In 1817, 2,770 tons were built; and, in 1818, no fewer than twenty-four vessels, measuring in all 3,300 tons. Soon after this period the trade suffered a decline, but latterly it has rallied very much, and now it is carried on to a great extent. The building is in few hands, only four companies being engaged in it; but they are wealthy, and have made such rapid improvements in the model and workmanship of all kinds of vessels, that the fame of the port for ship-building has spread to every part of the world. Last year, six vessels, 2,641 tons, were built to shipowners resident in Aberdeen, while fully as many were built to shipowners in other places. The first vessel built here for the India trade was the *Castle Forbes*, launched in 1818. She was registered for 439 tons, and was considered a great feat in

ship-building. Since then, many vessels of 600 tons register have been built; and now a vessel of from 700 to 800 tons is turned off the stocks at any time, just as a matter of course.

An improved system of register measurement having been introduced by act of Parliament in 1837, a great change has taken place in the models of most vessels since built. Formerly it was the interest of the shipowner, for the sake of saving dues and light duties, to have his vessels built so that they would measure as little and carry as much as possible. Hence, square-sided, high-wooded vessels were to be seen everywhere; but, in consequence of the system of measurement now approximating to actual capacity, there seems to be a rivalry as to the point of perfection in improved symmetry amongst owners at every port in the kingdom. But Aberdeen has the honour of having struck out the most original, and, so far as experience has yet gone, the most profitable alteration and improvement in the construction of vessels. For many years, the clipper schooners employed in the fruit trade between London and the Mediterranean were thought to be unapproachable as vessels for quick sailing; and, perhaps, with the exception of the American privateers, that did so much mischief to our navy and mercantile marine during the American war, no other models have come within sight of them; but clipper schooners have been built at Aberdeen within the last two years that bid fair to rival all that has preceded them. The first of these schooners (the *Scottish Maid*) was built for Messrs. Nicol & Munro, by Messrs. A. Hall & Sons, in 1839, for the Aberdeen

and London trade. She measured 145 tons, and carries about 240, dead weight. The peculiarity of her construction consists chiefly in her long floor, clean run, and very sharp entrance, with an outreach fully equal to that of a steamer. She is rigged low, her masts having a large rake, and the canvas so adapted to the pressure of the wind that the vessel is seldom thrown on her heel, but seeks right ahead and to windward. Soon after the *Scottish Maid*, other three vessels, the *Aberdonian*, the *London*, and the *William Hogarth*, were all built for the same company, and have answered equally well. The *William Hogarth* is an iron vessel, and was built by Messrs. J. Vernon & Co. Since these clipper schooners were built, several companies in the south, one at Glasgow and one at Leith, have introduced them into the London trade there; and, just now, the Messrs. Duthie have two on the stocks, one of which is of still larger dimensions than any of those previously built. In the yards of Messrs. Walter Hood & Co., Nicol, Reid, & Co., the new model has been more or less used. Indeed, it is more than likely that it will be generally adopted; and, if so, many a brave tar will bless the day that they superseded the old "coffins," in which thousands yearly met a watery grave.

There have been several iron vessels built at Aberdeen of late, but somehow or other there seems to be a prejudice against iron vessels which can scarcely be overcome. Some of the iron vessels built here have had flush sides—that is, each plate used for planking, so to speak, was fitted edge to edge and bolted upon an iron framework, as planks of wooden vessels

are treenailed to the timbers ; others were clinker-built—that is, one iron plank overlaps another, in the same way as a common boat is planked and fastened. The expense of iron vessels is much about the same, or perhaps rather higher, than that of oak vessels, say L.18 to L.20 per ton.

A good many steam vessels have also been built at this port, some of them of the largest class of steamers afloat ; but the Clyde seems to carry off the palm in this department of ship-building, having all along taken the lead and kept it.

Upon the whole, Aberdeen stands deservedly high as a ship-building port, and the business is evidently in the hands of men who will do it ample justice, and we doubt not will carry it down to future years as in every way worthy of the great interests of the city.

THE CUSTOMHOUSE.

IMMEDIATELY after the treaty of union, a Customhouse was established at Aberdeen. In 1710, the district assigned to it comprehended the coast from the Tod Head at Montrose to the Scar Nose at Cullen. By and by, the duties of so large a district became so cumbersome that it had to be contracted ; and, in 1801, it was limited to Peterhead on the north, and Stonehaven on the south side, both inclusive ; while Fraserburgh, Banff, Portsoy, and adjoining creeks to the northern limit, were formed into a separate branch, Banff being the head Customhouse port.

The business of the Customhouse here was con-

ducted for many years in a house on the north side of the Shiprow, near the Shorebrae; but, about forty years ago, a very neat and commodious building, on the Quay, was purchased by Government, and is now occupied with the whole establishment.

CUSTOMS DUTIES.—These duties in 1817 were L.17,913; in 1840, L.79,984; and, in 1841, L.78,205, being a decrease of L.1,779, as compared with last year.

STEAM NAVIGATION.

THE first steam boat that plied along the east coast of Scotland was the *Tourist* of Leith. She was the property of a company in Leith, and commenced running in 1821. Soon after they added the *Brilliant*, and for several years continued to run in opposition to the vessels belonging to the Aberdeen, Leith, and Clyde Shipping Company.

The first steam boat that sailed from the port of Aberdeen was the *Velocity*, of 256 tons burthen, and two engines of 110 horse power, built in 1821. She was the property of the Aberdeen, Leith, and Clyde Shipping Company, and plied between Aberdeen and Leith. The same company, in 1826, purchased from the Leith Company the *Brilliant*, and thereafter had the trade of the whole of the east coast from Leith to Inverness. In 1836, they extended the trade to Wick, Orkney, and Zetland, and upon that passage put the *Sovereign*, of 450 tons; and, in 1838, the

Duke of Richmond was added, a steamer still more powerful than any of the others. The *Brilliant* having been destroyed by fire, while taking the harbour in a gale, the Company purchased the *Bonnie Dundee*, a very superior vessel, to supply her place. These vessels are all constantly employed during the summer, and one of them, for the most part, during the winter months. They are fitted up in a neat and commodious style, and have experienced and obliging commanders. It is worthy of remark, as indicating the superior character of these boats, and the able management under which they have been placed, that, notwithstanding the very rough and often dangerous navigation of the east coast, and Moray Frith, not a single accident has ever taken place in any of them.

The first steam vessel put into the London trade was the *Queen of Scotland*, built at Aberdeen in 1827, by the Aberdeen and London Steam Navigation Company. This vessel attracted general notice at the time, and was spoken of as one of the largest that could be safely built for the purposes of steam navigation. She is now in the Aberdeen and Hull trade; and, though she has been eclipsed by vessels since built, both here and elsewhere, the *Queen* is still considered one of the most substantial and safe boats on the coast. The next boat built by this Company was the *Duke of Wellington*, in 1829. The *Duke* was the "crack boat" on the coast for several years; but, in 1835, the *City of Aberdeen* was built on the Clyde, and perhaps is the largest and most elegantly fitted-up boat that trades from Scotland to London. In 1839, the same Company purchased the *Duchess of Suther-*


land, also built on the Clyde, for Inverness owners, and these three now trade regularly between Aberdeen and London. The *City*, having been of too heavy a draught of water for the harbour, was lengthened last year; and since then she draws less water, sits easier, and has made the voyage frequently in forty-three hours.

Several smaller steamers have attempted the trade between Aberdeen and Leith, taking in Montrose and Dundee; but, with the exception of the *Harlequin*, which still trades to the former port, and also to Peterhead, none of them have succeeded.

Altogether, the steam-boat accommodation of the port of Aberdeen is of the most valuable description, and in every way worthy of the intelligence and enterprise of the respective companies to whom the vessels belong.

CHAPTER IV.

COMMISSIONERS OF POLICE.

 **N**our account of the rise and progress of the city, we mentioned that it became distinguished by the name of "New Aberdeen," in consequence of the streets being greatly improved, and many of the houses built of stone, about the year 1356. For centuries afterwards, the Magistrates and Council continued to provide for the proper keeping of the streets, and also the watching of the city. There was no regular watch appointed until a very recent period ; but numerous entries are made in the Council records of men being employed, even to the number of fifty or sixty at times, as night patrol. In 1795, a Board of Commissioners, for lighting and paving the streets, was constituted by act of Parliament ; and, in 1829, an act was passed "for better paving, cleansing, lighting, watching, and improving the streets, lanes, and other public places and passages within the city of Aberdeen and certain grounds adjacent, for regulating the police thereof, *and for supplying the inhabitants with water.*"

In pursuance of this act, the city and suburbs are divided into nine Wards, each of which returns two Commissioners, who, with four *ex officio* Commissioners, viz., the Provost, the Treasurer, the Dean of Guild, and the Convener of the Incorporated Trades, constitute the Police Board. The qualification of electors is the occupation of premises, within given bounds, of not less value than L.5 of yearly rent. The Commissioners are chosen from electors occupying premises in the Ward, assessed under the act of the yearly value of not less than L.15, and being also resident in the Ward. The election takes place on the second Thursday of October biennially. It is a curious fact in the history of this Board, that, notwithstanding its importance to the citizens, but a small proportion of the electors voluntarily use their elective franchise. In the year 1839, the Footdee Ward returned two Commissioners, the one by five, and the other by three votes !

In the paving department of the duties of this Board, they have power to make the proprietors on any street lay the pavement opposite, both of the carriage-way and foot-path, at their own expense. After that they are kept in temporary repair by the Board ; but, if they require repaving, the proprietors are obliged to pay half the expense. The proprietors on certain old streets, however, are exempted from this compulsion ; but the Board, with consent of two-thirds of them, may insist on the others paving also, or do it at their expense.

In regard to the lighting of the streets, a contract is entered into with the Gas Company for supplying

a certain number of lamps, for so many hours each night, the number lighted during the season of moonlight being very limited. This economy has been loudly complained of by those of our citizens who keep fashionable hours, and we recollect of a worthy Commissioner once bringing forward a motion to have the whole of the lamps lit up every night, unless when the moon shone with unclouded lustre; and, as an argument in support of it, pointed to a broken nose, which he had gotten the moonlight night before, by running against a lamp post. The practice, however, still continues.

There are about 1200 public lamps in the city, 1000 of which are lighted with gas—the others, with oil.

The police for watching and patrolling the city form a separate and distinct establishment, under a Superintendent, who is responsible to the Board for the conduct of the whole of the force under his charge. There is an excellent Watch-house, situate at the back of the Town-house, and, attached to it, there are a number of cells for the accommodation of prisoners. These cells have lately been repaired, but there is still room for improvement. When prisoners are brought to the Watch-house, they are generally searched, a note of whatever is found on them is taken by the officer on duty for the night, and, where no crime has been committed, the articles are returned. There is a female officer for examining female prisoners, and altogether the establishment seems to be conducted in a very efficient manner.

The streets were formerly cleaned by contract, the

contractor paying a large sum for leave to clean them and a right to the dung, which is now sold separately.

The question of supplying the town with water was long a fruitful source of agitation. So early as 1632, a Head Court of the citizens was held, when a "proposal for bringing a fountain of water into the town" was sanctioned, and "the craftsmen agreed to contribute 1000. merks towards the expense." The scheme did not succeed, and another of a similar character also failed; but, in 1706, a good supply of spring water was got—a well was erected on Castle Street (where it stood till last year), and soon after others were built in different parts of the city. The supply, however, having become inadequate to the demands, other springs were taken in; and, in 1766, a cistern, capable of holding 31,000 gallons, was erected in Broad Street. The water from these springs was of a mixed quality, and the supply was not to be depended on in dry weather. The largest quantity supplied was 130 gallons per minute. The population of the city however, increased so rapidly that a proposal to introduce the Dee water was at last made; and, after a great deal of opposition, was carried in 1830. A filter was laid in the Dee, and the water pumped by two single-stroked engines, of a hundred horse power, erected at the north end of the bridge, whence it is forced into a cistern at the west end of Union Place, capable of containing 84,375 gallons. The quantity of water raised by these engines is nearly a thousand gallons per minute.

There are 96 public wells in the city just now, and nearly 1000 private service pipes. Great diffi-

culty has been found in approximating to the actual quantity of water consumed by public bodies. Various meters have been constructed, but none have yet been found to answer the ends intended, at least, in so far as the experience of the Aberdeen Board of Police is concerned.

FUNDS OF THE BOARD.

The receipts are derived from assessments according to the following rates:—

For the general purposes of the Board: Under L.7 of rent, 1s. 3d. per pound; at and above L.7, 1s. 6d. per do.

For Water: Dwelling houses, 9d. per pound; other premises, 4d. Premises below L.3 of rent are exempted. Sixpence per pound additional is charged for water introduced to houses.

The revenue for the year ending March 31, 1817, was as under:—

Assessment,	L.1,287
Dung,	544
Lighting private Lamps,	45
Fines and broken Lamps,	4
	<hr/>
	L.1,880

The expenditure for the same period was:—

Salaries,	L.187
Printing and Stationery, Rent, &c.	64
Cash expended on Wells,	36

Cash expended on public Lamps,	965
Do. do. on repair of Streets,	202
Do. do. on cleaning Streets and re- moving Dung,	726
	<hr/>
	L.2,180
Deduct receipt,	1,880
	<hr/>
Super expenditure,	L.300

The act under which these funds were administered expired in 1817. The total receipts during that period were L.30,964; the expenditure, L.30,933, leaving a balance in the Treasurer's hands of L.30. But as the receipts included a sum of L.1372, borrowed from the bank, there was a floating debt to that amount when a new bill was applied for in 1818.

From the year 1818 down to 1841, the total receipts were L.126,261, and the expenditure L.117,670. The debt now is L.42,469, while the stock account shows the value of the property of the Board to be L.52,724.

The annual revenue for the year ending 1841 was :—

For general purposes,	L.7,101
For water assessment,	3,211
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	L.10,312


And the expenditure :—

On ordinary purposes,	L.6,269
On Water account,	2,689
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	L.8,958

CHAPTER V.

EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS.

THE GRAMMAR SCHOOL.

RAMMAR Schools had their origin in monasteries instituted for the instruction of youth in the learned languages, and were under the superintendence and direction of the Bishop of the diocese.

We can trace the Grammar School of Aberdeen to the fourteenth century, when it seems to have been the only educational institution in the city. Though the Bishop of the diocese had the superintendence of the school, it would appear, from the Magistrates having appointed a teacher to it in 1418, that they held the patronage. From various appointments made after this date, we gather that the power also of regulating the fees, and the system of education to be observed in the school, were gradually transferred from the Clergy, and ultimately rested with the Magistrates alone, who retain it at the present day.

The salary attached to the office of head master in 1479 was only L.5 Scots. In 1529, it was raised to L.10 Scots; in 1549, to 50 merks, and 2s. a quarter

from each scholar as a fee. In 1670, the Rector had a salary of 600 merks, and by this time the school had increased so as to require the services of two ushers, who had 200 merks each as a salary, the fees being now 13s. 4d. a quarter. The salary of the Rector at present is L.90 per annum. The Teachers under him have L.45, and the fees are fixed by the Magistrates at 10s. 6d. per quarter.

In 1616, Dr. James Cargill mortified the sum of 500 merks, the interest of which was to be applied towards the education of poor boys. In 1625, an anonymous donation of 500 merks was made to the Council, the interest to be paid to one of the Teachers. In 1634, Dr. Patrick Dun, Principal of Marischal College, mortified the lands of Ferryhill, near Aberdeen, for the benefit of poor masters in the Grammar School. In 1752, these lands were feued at L.164 sterling per annum, half of which is paid to the Rector, and the other half equally divided among the other Masters. In terms of the deed of mortification, it is provided that any scholar having a sufficient testimonial of poverty shall be taught Latin gratis; that all of the name of Dun, and the sons of tenants on the lands of Ferryhill, "and haill remanent lands to be conquest for the use foresaid," shall have the same privilege; and, in the event of a vacancy in the office of any of the Masters, "a person of the surname of Dun, or a tenant, or tenant's son, on the lands aforesaid, shall be appointed "without anie contestatione." There were also a donation of 1000 merks made by George Robertson, in 1645; one of L.200 Scots, by Dr. Alexander Ross,

in 1656; one of 1,000 merks, for books to boys, by Alexander Williamson; and one of L.200 sterling, in 1747, by George Cruickshank, for the support of a Burgess' son for five years, and L.20 of an apprentice fee, when he leaves the school and goes to learn a trade. These funds are all under the charge and administration of the Magistrates, and are worth, per annum, as under:—

Dr. Dun's,	L.164	0	0
James Cargill's,	88	0	0
George Robertson's,	4	13	0
Alex. Ross's,	12	16	0
Alex. Williamson's,	6	16	0
Geo. Cruickshank's,	20	4	0
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	L.296	9	0

Besides a proportional share of a mortification, by Catherine Rollands, "to four bursars at Marischal College and Grammar School, and to widows of decayed Burgesses and poor of Aberdeen." The number of pupils attending the school is generally about 200. They are examined annually by the Magistrates, the Ministers of the Established Church, and the Professors of Marischal College, when prizes are awarded to the most deserving. The course of education is altogether classical, and the school may be said to be a nursery for Marischal College.

There are several incidents in the history of the Grammar School which are of an amusing and instructive character, but the limits of this work necessarily preclude us from noticing them fully in detail.

Previous to the Reformation, it was customary,

on the annual festival of St. Nicholas, for the Rector to visit the parents of the children entrusted to his care, accompanied by one of the boys in the costume of a bishop. The little fellow displayed his Episcopal vestments, insignia of the dignity, and bore the title and state of a bishop, exacting ceremonial obedience from his fellows.

The object of this ceremony was to get fees for the Rector, and it appears that the sum claimed was generally 4s. Scots. Those who contributed freely were rewarded with the distinction of kings, princes, and so on, when they next appeared in school.

In the statutes of Eton College for 1441, the *Episcopus Puerorum* is ordered to perform divine service on St. Nicholas' day. In the statutes of Winchester College, given in 1380, the *Pueri*, or the boy Bishop and his fellows, were permitted, on Innocent's day, to perform all the sacred offices in the chapel, according to the use of the Church of Sarum. It was also frequently performed in Salisbury Cathedral, and, doubtless, found its way from England to Aberdeen. It was abolished in England by proclamation of Henry VIII.; and in this city, about the close of the eighteenth century, by an act of the Magistrates and Council.

However much we may be disposed, in modern times, to reprobate such a mode of raising fees, it is not difficult to conceive that it might have the effect of conciliating the youth. At any rate, the Rector and his boys were generally on good terms. After the Reformation, the discipline of the school became very severe, and the restraint under which the boys

were laid was such as induced them to complain to the Magistrates in 1569, and to petition that their ancient privileges might be restored. The petition was granted ; but, in 1602, their holidays were again restricted by the Rector, who compelled them to pay "bent-money," as a fee for permission to take recreation at the bents on the sea shore, on every Wednesday afternoon. Hence the Wednesday afternoon's play. In 1612, the discipline again became so severe that the boys mutinied—armed themselves with cudgels, and even pistols—took possession of the school, and with difficulty were restrained from committing violence by the interposition of the Magistrates. The ringleaders were apprehended and sent to prison, and twenty-one of the most riotous were expelled from the school, and prohibited from attending any of the other schools in the town. From the period of this insurrection, the discipline was relaxed ; but, in 1700, the Town Council laid it down as a law that, "once a week, all the rules and questions of the Shorter Catechism were to be repeated publiclie," which was a task so difficult and irksome to most of the youths that nothing but its being modified to Scripture lessons every Saturday prevented a second riot.

Instructive morals may be drawn from these extremes, inasmuch at least as they tend to show that no teacher of youth can be successful in his important office, who overlooks the philosophy which combines instruction with amusement, and seeks to engage the affections while it firmly communicates information to the mind. Such philosophy, we are glad to

say, obtains in the Grammar School of Aberdeen in 1842.

WRITING SCHOOL.

A school for instruction in writing, arithmetic, and book-keeping, was instituted by the Magistrates in 1607, which has continued till the present time. The Teacher's salary is L.25, with the fees, which are 10s. 6d. per quarter.

ENGLISH SCHOOLS.

In 1672, a school for English Grammar was instituted under the patronage of the Magistrates. It was for many years situated in Drum's Lane, and has long been efficiently taught. Fees, 7s. 6d. per quarter.

These schools, together with the Commercial, Arithmetical, and Mathematical School, fees 10s. 6d. per quarter, are now taught in a most chaste and elegant building, in Little Belmont Street, erected last year, at a cost of L.2000.

The other schools under the charge of the Magistrates and Council, are Dr. Bell's Schools, Frederick Street, and St. Clement's School, Footdee.

Dr. Bell of Madras left L.10,000, three per cent. consols, to the Magistrates and Council of Aberdeen, two-thirds of which were to be appropriated towards building and supporting schools in New Aberdeen, and one-third for a school in Old Aberdeen. In 1835, the school in Frederick Street was erected. It is constructed upon a plan which provides separate accommodation for 400 boys and 300 girls. The system of

education pursued in it is what is called the intellectual or monitor system, and is of great value to parents who are only able to afford their children elementary instruction. The pupils are taught English Reading, Grammar, Writing, Arithmetic, Geography, and History. The girls are, besides, taught needle-work and knitting. Fees, $1\frac{1}{2}$ d. per week.

In St. Clement's School the usual branches of English education are taught—the fees from 3s. 6d. to 7s. per quarter, according to the branches in which the pupils may choose to be instructed.

These are what are termed the public schools; the others, which we shall now notice, are partly general, and partly parochial and private.

GENERAL SCHOOLS.

In 1815, a society was set on foot in the city for the purpose of introducing the Lancasterian system of education. A school was established, at which the average attendance was for a considerable time about 450 boys. In 1827, Mr. Hogg of Shannaburn left a bequest of L.1,000, to erect a school of the same kind for girls. The attendance at first was about 200. These schools had latterly fallen into a low state. One of them has been given up, and the other has been divided into two apartments, capable of accommodating about 200 scholars each. Since this arrangement was made the school has improved. A school for girls is conducted under the auspices of the Seamen's Friend Society, and is generally well attended.

Dr. Anderson of Jamaica having bequeathed certain funds to the Trustees, for the support of a school in Aberdeen, and Mr. Donaldson of Orchardston having also bequeathed a sum for the same purpose, a school was erected in the Back Wynd, called Donaldson's School, which is also well attended.

It was frequently a subject of complaint that our public schools, as well as several of the other educational institutions in town, were each so distinctive and exclusive in the system of education taught that parents had frequently to send their children to one school to learn one branch, to another to learn another branch, and so on. To remedy this defect, and combine a general and complete system of education under one roof, an Academy, on the principle of the Circus Place School, Edinburgh, was suggested by D. Stuart, Esq., Postmaster, in 1840; and the proposal having met with much approbation, as commending itself, especially to the middle and upper classes, a proprietary institution was established, and is now in a very flourishing condition. This academy is situate in Union Street West, and those who are taught in it have the advantage of a full curriculum of study within a very reasonable time.

Besides these, there are numerous private schools, and, during the last four years, several parochial schools have been erected in different parts of the city, all by voluntary contributions. Of these, the one that has attracted most notice has just been erected by the Rev. A. L. Gordon of Greyfriars Parish Church, on the Porthill, in which an attempt is making to train the boys to industrial habits, as well

as to communicate instruction to them. He has got a very neat printing establishment on the premises—has engaged a compositor to teach the boys the art of printing—and, so far as the experiment has yet been tried, it appears to have succeeded well.

Of the general state of education in the city it is rather difficult to speak. In 1833, the Magistrates and Council issued a set of queries to all the schools in town; and, from the returns, it appeared that there were then 37 teachers, having 3,664 pupils, viz., 2,546 males, and 1,118 females. These were being taught the following branches of education:—

English,	2,792
Writing,	1,887
Arithmetic,	1,567
Latin,	208
Greek,	60
Mathematics,	74
Geography,	281
Navigation,	15
Music,	333
Elocution,	67
Sewing,	429
Total,	<hr/> 3,644

Since then, the increase, both in the number of schools and of scholars, has been very great; and, though we have not the precise data whereby to calculate the exact number of either, we have ascertained as much as enables us to state that the number of scholars now exceeds 5,000, which is about a twelfth part of the whole population. Nor does this number merely include the children of the middle and

upper classes. The children of the poor are mostly all taught to read and write; and it is pleasing to know that such are the resources of education in town, that no child, however poor, need be without it. Parents who are unable to put their children to school may have them educated gratis, by applying to the Magistrates; but it is an honourable trait in the character even of the poorest in the city, that few of them resort to this alternative until every other means of instructing their children have failed.

MARISCHAL COLLEGE.

There were three colleges in Scotland previous to the Reformation, viz., St. Andrew's, founded in 1412; Glasgow, in 1454; and King's College, in 1494. These were originally ecclesiastical or clerical corporations, instituted for the advancement of learning, and possessed of very extensive immunities and privileges.

George, Earl Marischal of Scotland, grandson of William, Earl Marischal, succeeded to his father's estates in 1571. Having imbibed the doctrines of the Reformation, he was sent abroad to be educated, and studied under Beza. On his return, he was appointed Lord Lieutenant in the north; and, in 1593, founded Marischal College and University. Having previously communicated his intention to the Magistrates, they purchased, for 1800 merks, the buildings and gardens which had formerly belonged to the Franciscan Friars, on the east side of the Broadgate, and presented the property to the Earl for the site of the College buildings.

The charter of foundation is dated April 2, 1593. It was ratified and confirmed by the King in Parliament on the 21st of July following; and in 1661, after the restoration, the foundation and privileges were again confirmed.

For the support of the institution, the Earl granted in mortmain the property that had been presented to him by the Magistrates and Council, and also several crofts of land, tenements, and annuities. Several chairs have also been endowed by different parties. Altogether the funds of the institution are very valuable, but too complicated for the compass of this work.

There are 114 bursaries connected with the College, of the annual value of L1,150. About 70 of these are open to competition. Two of them are of the annual value of L.30 each, and are adjudged for excellence in mathematics, to students who have studied that science for two sessions, and are held for two years. There are other two prizes at this University, viz. :—

1. A Gold Medal, weighing two ounces, appointed by John Gray, Esq., of London, in his will of 19th Dec., 1768, to be given to such of his mathematical bursars as are certified by the Professor of Mathematics to “possess an uncommon genius for that science, and to have made discoveries or improvements therein.” The Medal has been awarded only three times, viz. :—

11th February, 1795, to JAMES SKENE, A.M.

25th March, 1824, to JAMES GORDON, A.M.

1st April, 1825, to JAMES ANGUS, A.M.

2. A Biennial prize of L.20, instituted by Mrs. Blackwell, by her will, dated 18th May, 1793, and open to students and the public, for an English Essay on a subject prescribed by the Principal, the four Regents, and the Professors of Mathematics and Chemistry, who also award the prize. When no essay considered worthy of a prize is given in, the judges allow an additional year to candidates, and add that year's revenue to the prize, so that it has sometimes amounted to L.30.

The subject for the next prize is, "A Comparison of the principal English authors of Queen Elizabeth's age with those of Queen Anne's in regard to style." The essays must be given in to the Librarian on or before the 1st April, 1838, *not* in the handwriting of the candidates, and along with each a sealed letter, bearing the same motto as the essay, and enclosing the name of the author.

The course of study comprises :—In Divinity—the Principal, who occupies a Chair of Church History ; a Professorship of Divinity ; a Professorship of Oriental Languages. In Medicine—a Chair of the Practice of Physic ; a Chair of Anatomy, of Surgery, and of Chemistry. The curriculum includes a Chair of Greek, of Humanity, of Mathematics, of Natural Philosophy, and of Moral Philosophy. Three of these—Surgery, Anatomy, and Humanity—were created by the Crown in 1840, chiefly through the exertions of our city member, Mr. Bannerman. The following lectureships are also connected with the College :—Midwifery, Materia Medica, Institutes of Medicine, Medical Jurisprudence, and Agriculture.

The average number of students for the last twelve years was—in Arts, 187 ; in Divinity, 120 ; in Law, 35 ; in Medicine, 84.

The ancient buildings of the University having fallen into decay, the foundation of a splendid new building, in the Gothic style, from the designs of Mr. Archibald Simpson, architect, was laid, with masonic honours, by his Grace the Duke of Richmond, Chancellor of the University, on the 18th October, 1837. The builder's contract amounts to L.21,420, of which sum L.15,000, with interest arising thereon since 1826, have been granted by Government, principally through the exertions of Mr. Bannerman and the late Provost Blaikie, and the remainder is in course of being raised by private subscription. The new buildings must be completed, in terms of the Government grant, in the course of this year.

GORDON'S HOSPITAL.

This invaluable establishment may be called a benevolent educational institution. It was founded by Robert Gordon, a descendant of the family of Straloch, who acquired a fortune as a merchant in Dantzic, and returned to Aberdeen, his native place, about the beginning of the last century. He was of the most penurious habits, of which many anecdotes are current of a very amusing character. By deed of mortification, dated December 13, 1729, he conveyed all his property to the Provost, Baillies, Town Council, and the four Ministers of the city, for the erection and maintenance of an Hospital for the reception and educa-

tion of boys, who are sons and grandsons of decayed Burgesses of Guild ; and,

First, Relations of the founder, of the surname of Gordon.

Second, Relations of the founder, of the surname of Menzies.

Third, Relations of the founder, of any other surname.

Fourth, Those not related to him, but of the surname of Gordon.

Fifth, Those not related to him, but of the surname of Menzies.

Sixth, Those not related to him, and of any other surname.

Seventh, Sons and grandsons of decayed tradesmen, members of the Incorporated Trades.

Eighth, Sons and grandsons of Dyers and Barbers.

Ninth, Sons and grandsons of inhabitants of Aberdeen generally.

As a site for the building, Mr. Gordon purchased the ground in Schoolhill, which for centuries belonged to the Dominican Monastery. Having died in January, 1732, Mr. Gordon's property was found to be worth L.10,300 sterling, with which the Governors or Trustees immediately proceeded to carry out the objects of the Trust. They erected a very chaste and elegant building, according to a plan by Mr. James Gibb, architect, and at an expense of L.3,300. The building was finished in 1739 ; but, owing to the disturbed state of the kingdom, and especially of Scotland, it was not opened for the reception of boys until 1750. In 1746, it was occupied as a barracks by the

royal troops then stationed in the city. By 1750, the funds had accumulated to L.14,000 ; and that year thirty boys were admitted, of from nine to twelve years, the age fixed by the deed of mortification. From this time forward the number gradually increased.

In 1816, Alex. Simpson, Esq. of Collichill, bequeathed in trust to the Principal and Professors of Marischal College, and the four Ministers of Aberdeen, the lands of Barrack, in the parish of New Deer, and Crichton, in Old Deer, subject to the liferent of certain of his own relatives, after whose death to be applied to the educating of boys in Gordon's Hospital, the sons and grandsons of decayed Burgesses. When this bequest became available, the buildings were enlarged, by having two new wings added, after designs by Mr. Smith, architect. These additions were completed in 1834. In 1838, Mr. Simpson's Trustees paid over to the Governors of the Hospital L.2000, on condition of their being entitled to have twenty-six boys accommodated in the Hospital, their maintenance and education being chargeable against Mr. Simpson's trust fund, at the annual average expense of the others. When these were added, the number in the house was increased to 134. In 1841, there were 150 boys in the Hospital.

The system of education pursued in the establishment consists of English Reading, Grammar, Elocution, Writing, Arithmetic, Geometry, Geography, Book-keeping, and, when it is considered necessary, French and Latin. The boys are also taught Drawing and Music. Of late, a desire has been evinced, on the

part of several of the Governors, to have the boys taught some useful art, and also a system of Drawing and Mensuration by the Theodolite, adapted to their prospects when they leave the institution.

The boys remain in the house for five years; and, on leaving, they are generally apprenticed to various trades and professions, receiving at the end of the first year of their apprenticeship, as an apprentice fee, L.5; when they implement their indenture, the sum of L.5; and, if any boy has favourable prospects abroad, he gets L.10, as an outfit, in full of all demands on the Hospital.

The domestic economy of the institution is of the most exemplary and satisfactory character. The health of the boys is specially attended to, and their moral and religious welfare amply provided for.

By a special clause in the charter, it is provided that "Young men educated in the Hospital, who may afterwards acquire or succeed to a fortune equal to L.216 13s. 4d., shall be obliged to refund to the institution the whole of their maintenance and education." This clause was lately made the subject of much discussion by the Governors, which led to an opinion of Counsel being taken, and which was to the effect that it only involved a moral, not a legal obligation.

The property of the Hospital is invested in land and heritable property in town, which yields an annual revenue of about L.3000.

SABBATH SCHOOLS.

The first Sabbath School instituted in this city can be traced to the year 1781, when the "Aberdeen Sun-

day School Society" was formed. In 1797, it was followed by the "Aberdeen Gratis Sabbath Evening School Society;" but the chief impetus given to Sabbath School teaching was by two gentlemen from England, the Rev. Messrs. Coles and Page, who were attending College in 1798. They taught a school each, and such was the popularity of their schools that they were frequently attended by a thousand people as spectators. In the course of the year many other schools were established. At first they received the countenance and support of most of the Established Clergy; but, somehow or other, a notion got into the minds of others that "they were striking a blow at the very vitals of the Establishment," and then the General Assembly issued a pastoral admonition, condemning, in severe terms, "the unauthenticated instructions of lay teachers," which led to a great deal of commotion throughout the country. A shrewd writer, in reference to these doings, says, "Both the Kirk and the Secession were alike in agitation, some of the latter body exerting all the terrors of the Voluntary system, and the former calling in the strong arm of the law, with which the constitutions of the country, according to their views, had invested them." Not a few of the teachers were summoned before Presbyteries of the Kirk, some in Aberdeen, and others in the country. The act on which the Kirk founded her persecutions of these lay teachers was passed just after the Rebellion in 1745, and proscribed Papists teaching "Schools for writing, reading, arithmetic, and languages." But an opinion of eminent Counsel having been obtained in favour of the Sabbath School

Teachers, and the voice of public opinion having been proclaimed loud and deep, the "Admonition" fell to the ground, and the Assembly opposed Sabbath Schools no more. Since then, these useful institutions have been multiplied all over the kingdom; and at present there is scarcely a church in Aberdeen but has one or more attached to it, while other schools are taught in private houses in different parts of the town. The history of Sabbath Schools presents few new features, the system of education having been all along pretty much after the same plan. Perhaps the most remarkable fact, in connexion with Sabbath Schools in this city, is the establishment of one in the vestry of Frederick Street Chapel, which is composed of boys picked off the streets, in the most destitute parts of the city, and who, to all appearance, have none to take care of them. It is surprising to see the progress these boys have made in reading, in religious knowledge, and in general improvement. Since the establishment of this school, one or two others of the same kind have been instituted. The machinery for instructing the youth of our city on the Sabbath, of all classes, appears to be now in a very complete state. There is a general harmony among the teachers, and yet the principle of a division of labour is fully carried out. This is the true philosophy of Sabbath School teaching.

CHAPTER VI.

ECCLESIASTICAL INSTITUTIONS.

ABOUT the beginning of the fourth century, Licenius, the Roman Emperor, persecuted the hierarchy with merciless severity, punishing some with banishment, and others with death. Amongst the victims of the former class was St. Nicholas, Bishop of Myra, a city in Lysia, a province in Asia Minor. After the death of Licenius, St. Nicholas returned to his diocese ; and, at the Council of Nice, distinguished himself by strenuously opposing the Arians. He was held in great veneration by mariners, of whom he was the Patron, and perhaps this circumstance, more than any other, accounts for the innumerable churches that were everywhere devoted to his name—among others the Church and Parish of St. Nicholas.

About the end of the ninth century, St. Macarius, with other canons of the Church, made a tour through North Britain, instructing the people in the principles of the Christian faith, and forming them into ecclesiastical communities, under the care of pastors and deacons. He founded a chapel at Seaton, Old Aber-

deen, which was also dedicated to his name. Hence the Parish of Old Machar.

The Church of Rome maintained the ascendancy, in ecclesiastical matters, in Scotland, until the beginning of the sixteenth century, when the new doctrines of Martin Luther began to spread in Britain. The first indication of them at Aberdeen appeared in Mr. John Marshall, Rector of the Grammar School, who enunciated his views with great boldness, and, for a time, held them firmly, notwithstanding that he was severely persecuted. It would appear, however, that the Magistrates and Council had succeeded in inducing him to modify his opinions, or, at any rate, his conduct in giving effect to them; for we learn from the Council Register, vol. xi. pp. 12, 378, that he expressed contrition, and was forgiven his offence. The new doctrines, however, gained ground; and, in 1525, Gavin Dunbar—Bishop Gavin Dunbar—interceded with the King, who gave instructions to the legal authorities in the city to suppress them by force. The persecutions that then ensued were of the most sanguinary and revolting character; but, instead of tending to suppress the excitement which prevailed, they had the very contrary effect, and the result was the overthrow of Popery, and the establishment of the Protestant Church.

The first Protestants assumed the name of "the Congregation." They held the doctrines of Luther, as carried out and to a certain extent modified by Knox. It does not appear, however, that "the Congregation" had increased rapidly from any influence which the Reformers of the city possessed of themselves;

for, in 1559, a deputation of the adherents of Knox in the south were appointed to visit Aberdeen, and stir up the inhabitants to more zealous efforts in the Protestant cause. On the 29th December, the approach of a large body of these Reformers was announced; and, on their arrival in the city, they commenced the work of destruction by an attack upon the great spire of St. Nicholas Church. The citizens, however, resisted this movement, and succeeded in preserving the Church. In the beginning of next year, an attempt was made to destroy the monasteries of the city, which was so far successful as to induce the Magistrates to interpose their arbitration, and propose that certain of the buildings might be spared. But by this time the citizens in general having embraced the Reformed doctrines, a head court was held, when it was resolved to demolish the buildings, to convert the materials into public purposes, and to sell the silver and brazen work of the church for the benefit of the Common Good. The weight of silver plate sold was 320 $\frac{1}{4}$ oz., equal in value to upwards of a thousand pounds sterling.

The Papal jurisdiction having now been abolished in Scotland by civil authority, the Protestant Church was duly constituted, its principles, as contained in the Westminster Confession of Faith, having obtained the sanction of an act of Parliament.

Mr. Adam Heriot, first Protestant minister settled in Aberdeen, was appointed by the General Assembly, and had his stipend paid by the Magistrates out of the Common Good, and by assessments on the inhabitants. He died in 1574, and was succeeded by Mr.

John Craig, who for nine years had been the colleague of Knox. In November, 1562, the Church Session of Aberdeen was constituted by the appointment of fourteen lay elders and seven deacons, with the Chief Magistrate of the town at their head. "They were first named by the congregation assembled in the church; and, on the Sunday following, their names being publicly proclaimed, they were confirmed as elders and deacons for the ensuing year. The nomination took place about the month of October annually."—*Church Session Register*, vol. i.

In 1579, Episcopacy was introduced into the Church of Scotland, when David Cunningham was installed in St. Nicholas Church, as the first Protestant Bishop of Aberdeen; Mr. Craig, who had obtained the appointment of Chaplain to the King, having assisted at his inauguration as one of the collaterals. The Church Session possessed unbounded authority, being legislative, judicative, and executive; and so tyrannical and oppressive were its acts that, on one occasion, about a fourth part of the community, above the age of eighteen, were banished the city, chiefly because they were suspected of a favourable leaning towards the Church of Rome. From 1562 to 1604, the Session persevered in this course of conduct, and that year it passed an act to the effect, that "*no acts or ordinances, made or to be made by the Session, be called in question, directly or indirectly, in time coming.*"

Episcopacy maintained the ascendancy till 1695, when the General Assembly deputed a committee of their own body to proceed to Aberdeen, with a view to the formation of a new Established Church under

the Presbyterian government. The deputation dismissed the Episcopal Session under the authority of the Magistrates—nominated twenty-three new elders, four of whom were magistrates, and sixteen deacons, to constitute the Presbyterian Church Session. This session was scarcely less cruel and vindictive than its predecessor; but, in course of time, as the people became intelligent, the laws of the Session became inoperative for any punishment beyond a rebuke or censure of the Church. Its powers now are solely limited to the exercise of Church discipline.

ESTABLISHED CHURCHES.

The original parish of St. Nicholas contained three churches, the East, the West, and the Greyfriars. We shall notice them in their order. The East and West Churches were collegiate for a century and a half; and the town, though but one parish, was divided into districts, having each an incumbent.

THE WEST CHURCH.—This building having become delapidated, was rebuilt in 1751, at an expense of L.5,700 sterling. "The whole of the expense," says Kennedy, "was defrayed from the particular funds belonging to the Church, and no part of the charge was either imposed upon the inhabitants, or contributed by them." It is worthy of notice that, although granite was abundantly available when the West Church was rebuilt, the basement only of it is of that material, the other parts of the fabric being of freestone imported from Queensferry. The interior of the building pre-

sents little that calls for special remark. The east gallery contains an elegant canopy, supported by four fluted mahogany columns, of the Corinthian order, with gilt capitals. The town's arms are cut in *alto relievo* on the front of the canopy, and on the wall behind are two pieces of tapestry, by Mary Jamieson, daughter of George Jamieson, the celebrated painter. The one represents Ahasuerus presenting the golden sceptre to Queen Esther; the other, Jephtha meeting his daughter. The West Church ceased to be a collegiate charge on the death of the Rev. Dr. Brown.

THE EAST CHURCH.—This church now stands where the choir of St. Nicholas at one time stood. The building was erected in 1834. The East Church was also a collegiate charge for many years. It is now a single charge.

GREYFRIARS CHURCH.—By deed of mortification, dated March 6, 1644, Sir Thomas Crombie of Kemnay mortified, for the "help and provision of a sufficient minister to the College" or "Greyfriars Kirk," ten thousand merks, equal to L.555 11s. 1d. 4-12ths sterling, "to remain in stock, and the annual rent and profit thereof to be yearly given, employed, and used for the stipend and provision of the minister, and to that effect allenary," and appointed the Provost, Baillies, and Town Council of Aberdeen, for the time being, to be patrons of the said mortification.

About the same period, Mr. Patrick Copland, minister of the Gospel at Norton in Northamptonshire, mortified the sum of six thousand merks, L.333 6s. 8d.

sterling, for the help and support of a Professor of Divinity in Marischal College—the Magistrates and Council also to be patrons.

At the date of these mortifications the College Kirk was not a parochial church, but a separate and distinct property, and only became parochial in 1827, when the parish of St. Nicholas was divided into six, and Greyfriars got a district under the authority of the Court of Teinds.

The annual revenue of the mortifications having been insufficient for the maintenance of a minister and professors, the offices were conjoined, the professor being under obligations to preach every Lord's day, either in Greyfriars Church or one or other of the town's churches; and this arrangement continued till the death of the Rev. Dr. William Brown. To make up the deficiency on the mortifications, equal to the stipends of the other town's ministers, the Council voted a sum yearly out of the Common Good.

About the middle of last century, the College Kirk was in such bad repair that public worship could not be performed in it, but meetings of the Session were held. In 1760, the Magistrates repaired the church at considerable expense. The Council then appointed a stated preacher, salary, L.40 to L.50, the Council having right to seat rents; but, latterly, the minister got right to the seat rents, under the burden of paying the precentor's salary, and other incidental expenses, without any other emolument. The Rev. A. L. Gordon entered the church under this arrangement in 1827. The three preceding incumbents had it also; but, in 1831, Mr. Gordon

became entitled, with consent of the Council, and having been recognized by the Court of Teinds, to a fixed salary of L.250—the seat rents and revenue of Sir Thomas Crombie's mortification forming part of the general fund for payment of minister's stipend and other ecclesiastical purposes.

Previous to 1704, it appears from the town's books the funds of the mortifications had been considerably super-expended; the net capital then being L.483 4s. 3d.—the annual sum paid in stipend, L.24 3s. 4d.

In 1704, the mortification, with some others, were invested in the purchase of an individual half of the lands and barony of Torrie, the share or proportion of Sir Thomas Crombie's being fixed at $16\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. on the free revenue, where it continues till the present time. The City Treasurer having obtained a charter from the Crown, giving right to the salmon fishings opposite the property, the fishings in the Bay of Nigg now belong to the town, and draw a rental of L.681. In 1786, the lands were feued, and, since then, the mortification available on account of Greyfriars Church has averaged from L.80 to L.85 per annum.

ST. CLEMENT'S CHURCH.—Previous to the Reformation, there was a chapel at Futtie, or Footdee, dedicated to St. Clement. In 1631, a Protestant Church was erected in its place. The expense was chiefly defrayed by voluntary contributions, about L.4000 Scots having been raised in this way. This sum was partly applied towards the erection of the building, and partly towards the permanent provision of a clergyman. The money for the latter

purpose was placed under the management of the Magistrates and Town Council, and was laid out by them in the purchase of grounds in the vicinity of the church, which became distinguished by the name of "Futtie Glebe." About the time the church was built, George Davidson of Pettens enclosed the ground surrounding the church by a stone wall for a cemetery. To preserve the memory of this benevolent act, a stone was fixed in the north wall, bearing the following inscription, and which stands to the present day:—

George Davidson, Elder, Burgess, Abredonensis,
Bigit this dyke on his own expenses.—1650.

In 1787, this wall was renewed, a new church having been built; at the same time, the incumbent, Dr. Thomson, advancing the greater part of the funds. In lieu of interest thereon, the Magistrates and Council granted him a life rental of the seats of the church, and this arrangement continued till his death in 1840, when the new incumbent was placed on a fixed stipend of L.250, the Magistrates and Council taking charge of the property themselves.

THE NORTH CHURCH.—This splendid building was erected in 1826, and cost L.10,500. It was built by the Magistrates and Council out of the Common Good.

THE SOUTH CHURCH.—The present church was built in 1830, on the site of a chapel originally connected with the Relief body of Dissenters, but after-

wards rejoined the Establishment. The seatholders pay the ministers stipend, and all the charges on the church.

These six churches are *quoad civilia*; that is, the original parish of St. Nicholas was divided into six parishes, by a decree of the Court of Teinds, in the year 1828.

QUOAD SACRA CHURCHES.

In 1834, an act was passed by the General Assembly, in virtue of which Chapels of Ease were connected with a parochial district, *quoad sacra*. The following are the churches *quoad sacra* :—

TRINITY CHURCH, built in 1794.

THE GAELIC CHURCH, built in 1795, in which public worship is chiefly conducted in the Gaelic language.

UNION CHURCH, erected in 1822.

JOHN KNOX'S CHURCH, built in 1885.

HOLBURN CHURCH, erected in 1836.

MELVILLE CHURCH, built in 1771, in connexion with the Original Burgher Associate Synod, and received into connexion with the Establishment in 1838.

MARINERS' CHURCH, erected in 1825, and assigned a parochial district in 1840.

These are all the churches in town connected with the Establishment; but another is about to be built at Caroline Place.

The subjoined tables, calculated from the Town's Accounts, will show the financial state of the city churches (except the South) for the last six years :—

L

RECEIPT.

	Seat Rents.	Tiend Duties of Lands and Fishings, &c.	Total.
1836	L.1,160	L.502	L.1,762
1837	1,071	415	1,486
1838	1,279	427	1,706
1839	1,287	412	1,699
1840	1,277	484	1,761
1841	1,263	504	1,767
Total,			L.10,181

EXPENDITURE.

	Stipends, &c.	General Expenses.	Repairs.	Total.
1836	L.1,139	L.264	L.196	L.1,729
1837	1,442	259	258	1,959
1838	1,302	254	384	1,940
1839	1,483	257	254	1,994
1840	1,400	260	242	1,902
1841	1,400	263	137	1,800
				L.11,324
				10,181

Surplus Expenditure in six years, L.1,143

Exclusive of interest on the debt due by the Kirk charge, which debt is now set down in the Town's Accounts at L.19,765.

DISSENTERS.

The first Dissenters in Aberdeen avowed themselves in connexion with the Society of Friends. In 1663, George Fox and James Naylor, two leaders of that denomination of Non-Conformists in England, propagated their doctrines with such zeal and energy

that they soon spread to Scotland, and took a firm hold of the minds of a good many of the citizens of Aberdeen. The Friends suffered great persecution at the hands of the Kirk Session and Magistrates, orders having been issued to "apprehend all male Quakers at their convention, to imprison them in jail, and shut up their meeting house." Nor was this all; for it is recorded in the Council Register, with great minuteness of detail, that the dead which the Friends had buried in a piece of ground of their own, on the east side of the Gallowgate, were raised, and the burial place demolished! It turned out, however, that "the more these people were persecuted, the more they grew," and then it was thought advisable to let them alone. The Friends became a pretty numerous body after this, but latterly they have been decreasing.

In 1694, the Episcopal Church was dispossessed, and became a Dissenting community. From that time forward until 1746, the Episcopal Church was under a clergyman, licensed by an English bishop, and had in its connexion a great many of the most respectable and wealthy citizens. Afterwards an act of Parliament was passed imposing conditions which few of the Episcopal clergy could comply with. Until this and other acts of the kind were repealed, the Episcopal Church, in common with other Dissenting Churches, had its full share of persecution. In 1819, St. Andrew's Chapel, King Street, was built, at an expense of L.6000, raised by voluntary subscription and borrowed money. It is one of the most handsome edifices in town. There is another chapel, in connexion with the same body, in Golden Square, and,

last year, St. Paul's Chapel, which used to be under an English bishop, was united with the other two, so that we have now three Episcopal churches in town, which are under the charge of Bishop Skinner.

In 1761, Mr. John Wesley visited Aberdeen, and, after preaching for some short time, formed a Church, which was called "the Wesleyan Methodists." In 1767, they built a chapel on the west side of Queen Street. When Bishop Skinner's Church was removed from the chapel in Long Acre to King Street, the Wesleyans purchased the former place, where they still meet for Divine worship.

In 1780, Belmont Street Chapel was erected by the Anti-Burgher Seceders. It is now connected with the United Secession.

In 1798, Independency assumed a tangible shape in Aberdeen. The history of the rise and progress of that body is thus given in a letter which was written at the time by one of the parties who were chiefly instrumental in forming the first Congregational Church here, and which came under our notice the other day:—

Some of us have long been Independents or Congregationalists in principle, although we saw no probability of succeeding in any attempts publicly to avow our principles, till the present moment. Others of us have only of late begun to investigate this matter, and were first led to do so by observing that *party spirit and the traditions of men* swallowed up the zeal and attention of too many professors; and that debates about some speculative subjects prevented weak and uninformed minds from attending to "the weightier matters of the law," and, instead of being a help, was a real hindrance to the success of the Gospel.

We belonged to different communions, in all which we found a rigid strictness in demanding submission to human standards of orthodoxy, but a lamentable neglect in seeking sound experimental knowledge of Jesus Christ, and a life becoming his holy Gospel. In short, we saw much zeal wasted about many things *indifferent*, and much coldness about "the one thing needful."

By conversing together occasionally, although belonging to different communions, we found that we agreed in all the leading doctrines of the Gospel, and that the Lord had fashioned our hearts alike; and were led to conclude that "the love of God, shed abroad in the heart," is a far more scriptural and steady principle of union than a constrained belief in human creeds and confessions, where genuine love is wanting. And when we considered the lukewarmness and bigotry of many parties, we regarded this as a suitable time for making an humble attempt to unite ourselves upon these principles of love and mutual concord. Accordingly, in the month of October, 1797, we formed ourselves into a society for this purpose, and wrote letters to several Independent ministers and tutors, requesting their advice and influence. Without going into a full detail of particulars, suffice it to say that they all advised us to preserve our fellowship, and promised to befriend the design; but none seemed more anxious for our success than the Rev. David Bogue, an Independent minister, and tutor at Gosport. Being himself a Scotsman, he seemed to retain a regard for his countrymen.

Our next step was to look out for some place in which to observe the ordinances of Christ; but no one could be found, and an application for the use of any of the churches in the city would have been vain, for ministers and sessions of all sects are our greatest opponents in this affair. We were, therefore, under the necessity of attempting to build a small place of worship for ourselves. But as we were only men in moderate circumstances, we felt the necessity of commencing on a very small scale. We received a letter, however,

from Mr. Bogue, the very day on which we proposed entering into terms for the ground, advising and requesting us by all means to make the house large enough to contain a thousand or twelve hundred persons, adding that there was no fear whatever in such a cause. This induced us to engage a larger plot of ground, and to determine to erect a place of worship sufficient to contain seven hundred. On the very day on which the first stone of the building was laid, we received a letter from Mr. Haldane, requesting us to make it larger; for he was persuaded we should never repent the enlargement. Accordingly, we enlarged a second time; and the house, when finished, will seat a thousand persons.

Thus have we been led on, step by step, and, we think, providentially; but we feel the weight of the undertaking, and sometimes are ready to apprehend consequences, for the sum necessary to complete our design will be about *eight hundred pounds*, and we have but little prospect of any considerable assistance.

In the same letter, we find the religious views of the Congregationalists thus stated:—

Man is a fallen corrupt being; cannot help himself; never seeks God till sought out by him. Yet, as the Lord invites, and sinners refuse, it is entirely their own blame if they perish.

We believe that men are justified by faith only, “without the deeds of the law.” This faith is the free gift of God, and uniformly produces good works; which works are not a title to, but a qualification for, the heavenly inheritance. In short, we believe that salvation, in its commencement, progress, and completion, is the free unmerited gift of God, meritoriously secured by the death of the Lord Jesus Christ, and applied by the Holy Spirit.

There are now three Independent Churches in this

city—one in Frederick Street, and one in Blackfriars Street, while the Church in George Street still continues to maintain its leading position.

The United Secession have three churches, besides Belmont Street, already mentioned—one in St. Nicholas Lane, one in George Street, and one in John Street; the latter just built, and capable of containing upwards of a thousand people.

The other Dissenting churches in town are the Relief, the United Christian Church, two Baptist Churches, a "Christian Unitarian Church," a Roman Catholic Church, and several small sects not much known beyond their own circle. The Catholic Chapel is a neat building, situate in Justice Street, built at the pastor's expense, and seats about eight hundred individuals. The number of Catholic families in town is believed to be about from four to five hundred, the children of which have the privilege of attending a seminary in Constitution Street, belonging to the Church.

From the Report of the Royal Commissioners for religious instruction, we gather the following facts regarding the extent of church accommodation when they visited Aberdeen in October, 1837 :—

	Total Sittings.	Let.	Unlet.
In the Establishment, -----	17,271	14,700	2,571
In Dissenting Churches, ---	13,222	6,249	7,073
	<u>30,453</u>	<u>20,949</u>	<u>9,644</u>

Since then, 2000 additional sittings have been provided by the Dissenters, and 2,500 by the Established Church.

A report was given in to the Commission of a survey made by the elders of the different parishes, from which the following table is made up, which gives a summary view of the ecclesiastical state of the inhabitants of the city :—


Parish.	Population.	Establishment.	Dissenters.	Unconnected with any Church.
East,.....	4,512	2,623	1,421	468
West,	2,024	1,277	611	136
North,.....	4,848	2,864	1,567	417
South,.....	2,837	1,876	775	186
Greyfriars,	2,538	1,661	671	204
St. Clement's, ..	3,992	3,044	831	117
Trinity,	2,252	1,425	584	243
Union,.....	3,693	2,407	1,156	130
Spring Garden, ..	1,486	852	425	209
John Knox's, ..	3,172	2,041	922	209
Total,.....	31,354	20,070	8,963	2,319

The patronage of the six churches, *quoad civilia*, is vested in the Magistrates and Council, with the exception of the South Church, the pastor of which is chosen by the members ; but, in the event of their not agreeing in their choice, a *jus devolutum* falls to the Magistrates and Council.

CHAPTER VII.

CHARITABLE INSTITUTIONS.

THE UNITED FUND.

HE citizens of Aberdeen have always been distinguished for their anxiety to provide for the wants of the poor. In the earlier ages, the poor were supported by charitable gifts and voluntary contributions; but after the Reformation it seems that a legal assessment became necessary, for we find that, in 1594, L.200 Scots were raised by a *stent* on the means and substance of the inhabitants. The act of Parliament by which this assessment was levied provides, that "the hail inhabitants in burghs and towns, without respect of persons, were to be assessed on their means and substance, at the discretion of the Provost and Baillies, with the assistance of such persons as they might think necessary." (James VI., cap. 74.)

By a proclamation of William and Mary, 29th August, 1693, the Magistrates of royal burghs are commanded "to meet and stent themselves, conform to such order and custom used and wonted in laying on *stents*, annuities, or other public burdens in the respective burghs, as may be *most effectual to reach all the inhabitants.*"

Under the authority of these acts or proclamations, various assessments were made ; among others, one in 1619, when 2,600 merks were raised, viz. :—“L.1000 Scots, by way of taxation, and the balance of 1100 merks from the contributions at the ministration of the communion. Thirteen taxers and stenters were appointed to stent the L.1000 Scots upon the **HAILL INHABITANTS EQUALLY.**”

In the course of the next century, the north of Scotland was overrun with strolling beggars, and, according to Fletcher of Saltoun, Aberdeenshire was infested with them. It therefore became necessary to provide a workhouse ; and, accordingly, we find that, in 1741, a Poor's Hospital was instituted. The funds were raised partly by charitable bequests, partly by benevolent donations, and to some extent by the appropriation of certain mortifications of a charitable kind ; and also by legal assessment, in 1742, on the occupants of houses solely, shops and proprietors being excluded. But it would appear that the workhouse did not fully answer the ends intended ; for, in 1768, a system of out-door relief was deemed preferable for the general poor, the Hospital being retained as an educational institution for orphans and destitute children.

This scheme was formed by a compact agreement, in which the Magistrates and Council, the Kirk Session, and the Managers of St. Paul's, were the contracting parties. The Session engaged to pay annually about L.240, being the estimated surplus in their hands after defraying certain settled charges ; the Managers of the Poor's Hospital undertook to give L.100, after

defraying the expense of educating twenty-five boys ; and the Managers of St. Paul's were to give L.30 yearly, continuing their quarterly collections as formerly. The management, as thus constituted, consisted of the Magistrates and Council, thirty in number ; the Kirk Session, fourteen ; and the Managers of St. Paul's, six. The United Fund being thus established, the Minute Book bears that it was "to be distributed among the poor, and applied to all the charitable purposes at present provided, either by the Session, or by the Directors of the Poor's Hospital." To this fund numerous donations and bequests were made from time to time, and for many years the fund was nearly sufficient to meet the demands upon it. The number of poor, however, having increased, in the year 1818 a voluntary contribution had to be resorted to, when the sum of L.1000 was raised. By and by, the revenue from this source fell off, until, in 1835, scarcely L.400 was collected. In these circumstances, and being anxious to avoid a legal assessment if possible, it was resolved, in 1836, by a head court of the inhabitants, to raise L.1,700 for that year, by an equitable self-imposed assessment on heritors and tenants. This assessment, however, was so difficult to collect, that, in 1838, the Magistrates were obliged to interpose their authority, and enforce payment. Since then a legal assessment has been annually continued. By this change the character of the management has been so far altered that the Magistrates and Council, according to law, are the sole managers of the assessment. This law proceeds upon the equitable principle that, as a legal assess-

ment reaches all the householders in the city, the householders have a right, in justice, to control its management. This topic is now the subject of dispute between the Council and Kirk Session, the Magistrates and Council being anxious to conjoin with themselves in the management a number of rate payers, while the Kirk Session claim a judicative privilege to at least an equal influence with the Magistrates in the management of the Fund. The Session having retained, for the last three years, the L.240 agreed upon to be given by them to the Fund, which is still unpaid, it has been a subject of much complaint amongst the rate payers, as also that several of the members of the Session, who do not reside in St. Nicholas parish, should take an interest in controlling the funds; but these are matters with which we have here nothing to do, and shall therefore proceed to notice the various resources from which the Fund is now supplied, premising the following general statement of the income and expenditure, with the number of poor on the roll, for a series of years from 1770:—

Years.	Number.	Expense.	Years.	Number.	Expense.
1770	----	L.440	1833	1,309	L.3,171
1780	420	560	1834	1,232	2,928
1790	480	800	1835	1,262	2,901
1800	719	1,060	1836	1,282	2,990
1810	832	1,220	1837	1,336	3,099
1820	1,084	2,230	1838	1,400	3,569
1830	1,093	2,538	1839	1,496	4,053
1831	1,142	2,791	1840	1,600	4,600
1832	1,245	2,902	1841	1,642	5,144

Previous to 1829, the United Fund and Boys' Hospital were managed as if they had been essentially one and the same institution; but since then they have been managed as separate institutions, together with the Girls' Hospital, which will come to be noticed by and by. In these circumstances, the original character of the Fund is so changed, at least in its resources, that we find it difficult to state its precise worth at the present time. According to the returns we have obtained, it has stood thus for the last eight years:—

1st, From Mortifications, Feu-duties, and Legacies.

Years.	Simpson's Mortification.	Feu Duties of Innes Street.	Legacies to the Poor and Donations.
1834	L.700	L.61	L.115
1835	600	61	62
1836	200	61	583
1837	400	61	138
1838	300	61	520
1839	400	61	...
1840	200	61	...
1841	300	61	...

2d, From the Kirk Session and Assessments.

Years.	Church Session, for the Poor.	Assessment for the Poor Received.
1834	L.254	L. ...
1835	237	...
1836	234	570
1837	235	480
1838	231	2,110
1839	123	2,130
1840	...	2,710
1841	...	4,800

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3d, *From Collections at Churches in connexion with the Establishment.*

Years.	East Church, for the Poor, 311 Sabbaths.	West Church, for the Poor, 318 Sabbaths.	North Church, for the Poor, 306 Sabbaths.
1834	L.181 10 7½	L.116 9 10½	L.117 1 0½
1835	136 7 9	120 17 8½	120 4 2½
1836	112 15 7½	184 16 1½	104 19 4
1837	160 18 6½	195 10 6½	92 13 0½
1838	117 14 1½	188 14 6	81 0 6
1839	112 10 5½	174 9 6½	84 6 8
1840	107 7 7	169 9 9	74 15 7½
1841	95 5 8	151 18 11½	62 9 2½

Years.	South Church, for the Poor, 297 Sabbaths.	Greyfriars, for the Poor, 302 Sabbaths.	St. Clement's, for the Poor, 292 Sabbaths.
1834	L.178 9 8½	L.114 7 0½	L.67 14 8½
1835	185 0 11½	117 1 7½	71 13 6
1836	164 3 5½	78 16 5	65 5 7½
1837	180 13 5½	65 16 4½	76 3 6
1838	176 6 9½	61 16 6	69 18 2½
1839	166 3 0	60 15 4½	89 5 1½
1840	154 1 3½	59 4 7½	81 1 0½
1841	128 17 5	49 11 9½	84 11 7

Years.	Trinity, for the Poor, 181 Sabbaths.	Union Church, for the Poor, 174 Sabbaths.
1834	L.93 13 10	L.100 12 3
1835	91 5 8	64 3 2½
1836	69 2 6½	51 1 0½
1837	48 18 7	45 14 0
1838	45 16 10½	42 16 8½
1839	39 7 9½	46 5 7
1840	38 4 4½	42 10 2½
1841	27 11 8½	37 17 3

The total amount for John Knox's Church, L.5; Gaelic Church, L.10; Melville Church, L.14., during these eight years.

The contributions promised by the managers of St. Paul's Chapel were only continued a few years. Other Dissenting Churches contributed collections occasionally, but these have also been discontinued. From the falling off in the collections, and other causes, the legal assessment had to be gradually increased, and, after all, the income did not meet the expenditure, as will be seen from the subjoined statement of the general balance for eight years :—

Years.	Receipt.	Expenditure.	Years.	Receipt.	Expenditure.
1834	.....L.2,436	.....L.2,928	1838	.....L.3,868	.....L.3,569
1835	.....2,132	.....2,901	1839	.....3,413	.....4,053
1836	.....2,634	.....2,990	1840	.....3,840	.....4,599
1837	.....2,111	.....3,099	1841	.....6,335	.....5,144

The annual deficiency was met by borrowing money, and the debt had augmented so much that, last year, the assessment had to be increased about twenty per cent., with a view to the raising of a surplus that would pay it off. The assessment has been somewhat reduced this year, and the whole subject is now under the consideration of a joint-committee of the Council and rate payers, with a view to an improvement, both in the mode of assessment and the general management of the funds.

THE BOYS' HOSPITAL.

When the system of out-door relief was first adopted, as has been already stated, the Hospital was adapted to the maintenance and education of pauper boys. The number of these was then twenty-five, but, in

1795, it was increased to forty, and in 1829 to fifty. In 1818, the Hospital was removed from Lodge Walk, where it first stood, to a house in the Gallowgate, and subsequently to more convenient premises in Upperkirkgate, where it still remains. The age of admission is from eight to ten years, and the boys are taught Reading, Writing, Arithmetic, and the Principles of Religion. Attempts have lately been made to provide for all the orphans on the poor's roll, the average number of which, for the last seven years, is forty-seven.

The accounts of the Boys' Hospital have been kept separate from those of the fund for relieving the out-door poor since 1829; but, in indicating the sources of its revenue, we shall only go back as far as 1834:—

	1834.	1835.	1836.	1837.	1838.	1839.	1840.
	L.	L.	L.	L.	L.	L.	L.
Simpson's Mortification,	175	150	50	100	75	100	100
Quarterly Collections,	102	93	102	82	77	70	65
Elsick Feu Duties,	120	125	125	138	130	144	136
Property in Innes Street,	28	28	...	28	28	28	28
Do. in Gallowgate,	65	55	...	55	55	55	55
John Petrie's Feu Duty, } North Street,	3	3	3	3	3	3	3
Property in Upperkirk- } gate,	6	10	...	...	...	...	...
Mortification from Mag.	76	76	76	76	76	76	76
Legacies,	58	208	250	74	355	463	...
Donations,	7	6	2	...	...	...	5
Property let to Girls' } Hospital,	32	32	...	32	32	32	32
Interest, .....	...	...	101	...	...	14	...
Feu Duties, Skene and } Echt,	40	53	53	63	54	54	56

The Hospital receives yearly seventy bolls of meal

from the Kirk Session, as part of the rents of the lands of Skene and Echt.

In managing the Institution since 1829, it seems that it has been the aim of the managers to accumulate stock; and, from the stock account, it appears that, from 1829 to 1840-41, the stock had increased from L.3,873 to L.4,183.

THE GIRLS' HOSPITAL.

In 1829, an institution for the maintenance and education of pauper girls was established by a subscription, which amounted to L.1,563. Twenty girls were admitted, the children and orphans of parochial poor. In 1830, the managers took in ten more; and, in 1835, they were able to admit fifty children, the age of admission being from six to nine. The branches of education taught are Reading, Writing, Arithmetic, Church Music, Sewing, Knitting, and Housework. The income is now derived from an annual collection in the city churches, the interest of the subscribed capital, some special legacies, and a fourth part of the proceeds of Mr. Simpson of Collieston's mortification to the Workhouse of Aberdeen, as under :—

Years.	Collections.				Legacies.			Simpson's Mortification.	
1829	£	166	15	1	£	...	...	...	...
1830	£	144	5	4	£	221	1	11	...
1831	£	139	16	9	£	104	5	0	...
1832	£	125	12	11	£	337	1	6	...
1833	£	122	4	0	£	495	11	1	...
1834	£	118	2	8	£	57	10	0	...

1835	.....	L.109	0	6	.....	L.41	16	6	.....	...
1836	.....	95	17	4	.....	340	0	0	.....	L.50
1837	.....	103	4	8	.....	149	0	0	.....	100
1838	.....	84	19	6	.....	355	0	0	.....	75
1839	.....	73	11	3	.....	238	16	9	.....	100
1840	.....	92	17	9	.....	90	0	0	.....	100
1841	.....	72	3	1½	.....	44	18	0	.....	150

An opinion seems to be gaining ground that it would be well to have a workhouse which would include all indigent poor, as well as provide maintenance and education for the pauper children. A Poor's House, on a small scale, has of late been instituted by the managers of the United Fund, and appears to answer well, but the expense of maintaining it is rather heavy. Whatever may be the result of the present movement in the city in regard to the general poor, there is much need for a change that will have the effect of rendering them more comfortable than they are under the present system.

OLD MACHAR POOR.

The parish of St. Nicholas comprehends about two-thirds of the population of the city, the other third being included in the parish of Old Machar.

The Denburn divides the parishes in the body of the city. The consequence of this division, in as far as it affects our pauper population and the poor rates, is that the heaviest assessment falls upon those who are least able to pay it. The poor were supported in the parish of Old Machar by voluntary contributions

and legacies, until 1835, when a legal assessment on heritage and occupancy had to be levied. The income for the year ending July, 1841, was L.2,523, and the expenditure, L.2,505. The accounts since then present an annual increase of expenditure as under :—

Years.	Excess over preceding year.	Total rise since 1835.
1835-36	L.233 4 2	L.233 4 2
1836-37	99 2 2	332 6 4
1837-38	37 13 11	370 0 3
1838-39	294 8 2½	664 8 5½
1839-40	236 11 7½	901 0 1
1840-41	280 4 7½	1,181 4 8½

At a meeting of Heritors and Kirk Session, held in August, 1841, a general Board of Management was appointed. The parish was also divided into districts, and a Committee of Management was nominated for each. This system has answered admirably, affording another proof of the beneficial tendency of a proper division of labour.

In the parish of Old Machar there is a Work-house, on a small scale, established in 1840, and apparently answering well, and also a Medical Dispensary, supported by voluntary contributions and donations.

SICK MAN'S FRIEND SOCIETY.

This charity was instituted in 1792, for the relief of indigent poor. It has been supported chiefly by voluntary contributions, and collections at the different churches in the city. It is managed by a

General Board, who divide the city into thirty-two districts, allotting visitors to each, who personally investigate the cases recommended before giving relief. The distribution is in sums of 1s. 6d., 2s. 6d., or 3s., twice a quarter, the amount expended being about L.250 annually. The number of cases on the roll is usually about 230, but a good many others receive occasional supply.

HOUSE OF REFUGE.

In the year 1836, George Watt, Esq., Surgeon (since dead), gave a donation of L.1000 for the purpose of instituting a House of Refuge in the city. This donation was followed up by a general subscription; and, in the course of a few months, L.3000 were raised, and annual contributions to the extent of L.136 subscribed for. Suitable premises having been rented in the Guestrow, the House of Refuge was opened on the 5th of September. Since then, it has been the means of relieving many a destitute creature, and affording support to a considerable number of young persons till otherwise provided for.

SCHOOL OF INDUSTRY.

This institution was set a-going by William Watson, Esq., Sheriff-Depute of Aberdeenshire, with a view to provide temporary employment for idle and vicious boys, who have no means of supporting themselves, but by begging or stealing. It was opened last year, the funds being raised by donations and subscriptions.

It has in a great degree realised the wishes of its benevolent projector, and promises to be of permanent advantage to the community.

MAGDALENE ASYLUM.

Soon after Dr. Watt gave a donation of L.1000 to commence the House of Refuge, he conveyed to trustees the property of Oldmill, situated about four miles westward of the city, for the purpose of erecting and maintaining a House of Industry and Magdalene Asylum. The property yields about L.164 of yearly rent, with a prospect of considerable improvement. The trustees have not yet been able to give effect to the intentions of the testator ; but it is fully expected that, next year, they will proceed with the institution. Meanwhile, a Female Penitentiary has been opened in the Spittal, on a limited scale, and is likely to accomplish much good. It was projected by some benevolent individuals last year, and has met with very liberal support from the public. Among the donations we notice, "A friend, L.200." The place chosen for the Penitentiary is very retired, and in every way adapted for an institution of the kind.

DEAF AND DUMB INSTITUTION.

This establishment was projected in 1817, a fund having been raised by voluntary contributions. Mr. Robert Taylor, Aberdeen, was appointed Teacher, and sent to Paris to receive the necessary instructions, under the celebrated Abbé Sicard. One of the con-

ditions imposed upon those who wished to take the benefit of the institution, was a payment of half the expense of their board, viz., L.8, the board being fixed at the rate of L.16 per annum. A class of boarders is also received who pay for their whole maintenance and education.

SHAW'S FUND.

In 1807, Alexander Shaw, being possessed of considerable property, vested it in trustees, with directions to let it accumulate until it should be sufficient to build and endow an Hospital for five boys and five girls, either orphans or deserted and destitute. They were to be admitted between the ages of two and four, "to take the name of Shaw or Davidson, and to be taught English, and a little French, Writing, and Arithmetic." The girls to be also taught needlework. The boys were to continue in the Hospital until twelve years of age, and then to be allowed L.6 of apprentice fee, and L.10 when their apprenticeship was out. The girls to remain in the Hospital till the age of thirteen, and to get L.10 if afterwards they continued five years in the families with whom they might be placed as servants. There is a clause in the deed, to the effect that "any boy of superior genius is to remain in the Hospital till he is twenty-one years of age, to study the French language diligently, and to be permitted to learn any profession for which he may be fitted, and most inclined." The Hospital was partially opened in 1839, when a house

was rented in the Gallowgate, but the deed has scarcely yet been fully carried into effect.

ORPHAN GIRLS' HOSPITAL.

In the year 1836, Mrs. Elmslie, a widow lady in London, devoted L.26,000 to the erection and endowment of an Hospital at Aberdeen for orphan and destitute girls. The Hospital has been erected at Alford Place, a remarkably plain yet elegant-looking building; and now the institution is in full operation.

A sum of nearly L.8000 was left in 1835, by Mr. John Carnegie, also for establishing a Female Orphan Asylum, which, together with a similar bequest from Mr. Gordon of Murtle, are now accumulating with interest.

ASYLUM FOR THE BLIND.

In 1818, Miss Elizabeth Cruickshank, of this city, bequeathed the bulk of her property to trustees, for accumulation, until it should be sufficient to found and support an Asylum for the blind. The fund is now very valuable, and a building, upon a large scale, is in course of being erected in Huntly Street.

UNITED COAL FUND.

Several bequests having been made previous to 1801, for supplying the poor of the city with coals, an agreement was then entered into by the trustees whereby they were united into one common fund, which is now worth about L.3000. The coals are purchased with

the interest of this money and charitable donations. The quantity distributed per annum is about 180 tons. The Fund is managed by the Magistrates, the Managers of the Poor's Hospital, the contributors, and other trustees. The West Aberdeen Coal Fund is a similar charity.

BURNETT'S FUND.

In 1783, Mr. John Burnett of Dens bequeathed two-thirds of the lands of Kinaldie for the support of diseased poor persons in the city, of good moral character. This charity was equal to L.250 annually. There was a clause in the deed, to the effect that, if a legal assessment were ever levied, the money should be applied by the Managers of the Infirmary, one-half to defray the expense of a physician to attend the sick poor, who are not proper objects to be received into the Infirmary; the other, to the maintenance of pauper lunatics, belonging to the town and county. A legal assessment having been imposed, half the fund has been applied to the purposes of the General Dispensary; the other, in support of poor lunatics.

ROYAL INFIRMARY.

In 1739, the Magistrates proposed the erection and maintenance of an Infirmary for the sick poor, giving, at the same time, a feu for its site, at a feu-duty of 20s. per annum. A subscription was then opened, and, in 1740-41, a small building was erected, at a cost of L.484. This, however, exhausted the funds, and

money had to be borrowed to furnish the house. The advantages of the institution having been pointed out to the various ministers in the county, they agreed to make collections annually in its behalf, and from this and other sources the managers were able to extend the accommodation so as to be capable of receiving nearly one hundred patients. In 1773, a Crown charter was obtained, giving to the Infirmary a permanent character. By this charter, the Magistrates of the city, the Professor of Medicine in Marischal College, and the Moderator of the Synod of Aberdeen for the time being, individual donors of L.50, and persons named by those bequeathing that sum, were appointed directors. To these were afterwards added donors of L.5, and fourteen persons chosen out of various bodies in the city, as annual directors.

In 1833, a new building, on an enlarged scale, was erected, at a cost of L.5,300, in which sixty beds were obtained for fever cases. In 1840, the building, which in 1833 was only partially finished, was completed, the expense of the whole being L.16,700. It accommodates 250 patients. There are five medical officers in the Infirmary, viz., two Physicians, two Surgeons, and a House Surgeon who resides in the building. There is also an Apothecary for compounding the medicines. There are two wards for ophthalmic cases, under the charge of a surgeon connected with an eye institution in town. Clinical lectures are also delivered in the Infirmary. The management is vested in a Committee of sixteen, chosen annually, and sub-committees nominated out

of the sixteen. The annexed returns will show the income and expenditure for the last nine years, and also the number of patients received and disposed of:—

Years.	Income.	Expen- diture.	Patients.	Cures.	Deaths.	Out Patients.	Students Entering.
1832	L.2,487	L.1,986	1,391	1,019	82	1,188	77
1833	2,449	1,909	1,558	1,185	87	1,250	73
1834	2,549	1,945	1,409	1,024	86	1,076	76
1835	2,446	1,955	1,287	893	77	1,200	84
1836	2,231	1,914	1,307	1,056	98	1,245	72
1837	2,399	2,436	1,785	1,433	95	1,175	23
1838	2,220	2,469	1,670	1,372	166	000	00
1839	2,212	2,667	1,984	1,580	163	485	19
1840	2,264	2,718	2,576	2,138	208	356	16
1841	2,118	2,360	1,952	1,580	97	350	21

LUNATIC ASYLUM.

This institution arose out of the Infirmary, and is under the same body of management. Previous to the year 1799, a few poor lunatics were lodged among the cells of the Infirmary, and on the ground floor of the Poor's Hospital. That year, a building was erected, about a mile out of town, capable of accommodating fifty patients. It cost L.3,484, which was raised by subscription, and by a grant of L.1,130 from the Magistrates, out of a bequest by Baillie Cargill, on condition of obtaining gratuitous accommodation for ten pauper patients. In 1819, a piece of ground, adjoining the institution, was purchased, and a new building erected upon it, at an expense of L.13,000, which sum included a bequest of L.10,000, by the late John Forbes of Newe. In 1836, another purchase of

ground was made, of eleven acres, which has been laid out for the employment of the patients, and on which out-door work of various kinds is carried on. The rates of board in the institution vary from L.15 per annum and upwards, according to the circumstances of the patients' friends and the accommodation required. The following table exhibits a view of the income and expenditure, with other useful particulars :—

Years.	Income.	Expen- diture.	Patients.	Cures.	Partial Cures.	Deaths.
1831	L.2,434	L.2,302	135	15	2	10
1832	2,350	2,179	147	23	7	14
1833	2,428	2,298	152	16	10	6
1834	2,573	2,247	157	20	9	11
1835	2,616	2,040	146	24	8	5
1837	2,797	2,197	149	16	8	8
1839	2,799	2,343	169	20	7	14
1840	3,029	2,629	199	26	13	10
1841	3,213	2,584	197	25	10	19

The system of treatment in the Asylum is allowed on all hands to be of the most improved kind, and has, perhaps, been fully as successful as any other similar institution in Scotland.

DISPENSARIES.

The first Dispensary in Aberdeen was established in 1781, in connexion with the Infirmary. In 1788, the Managers of the Infirmary agreed to defray the expense of the medicines required for it, provided as many annual subscriptions were raised as would pay the salary of a regular physician. The Dispensary was at length disunited from the Infirmary, and, in

1823, was incorporated with other four, which by this time had sprung up in different parts of the city, the five physicians having the charge of five different districts of the city. Since then, a sixth district and physician have been added. In 1831, a Vaccine Institution was formed in connexion with the Dispensary. In 1837, a vaccinator was appointed as one of the medical attendants, who receives a salary out of a bequest by Mr. John Burnett, who, in 1783, bequeathed a sum of money for the prevention of small pox. The institution is chiefly supported by voluntary contributions, and is open to the poor gratis.

FEMALE SOCIETY.

The Aberdeen Female Society was formed in 1805, for the relief of aged and indigent females. The annual receipts from the contributions of members and donations amount to about L.250, and are distributed amongst two hundred and thirty pensioners, in sums of 1s. 6d., 2s. 6d., or 3s., twice a quarter. It is managed by a committee of ladies, who investigate personally cases recommended for relief.

CLOTHING SOCIETY.

This institution was established in 1817, for the purpose of supplying articles of clothing to the industrious poor. It is under the management of a committee of ladies, who superintend the making of the clothes, and make personal inquiry into the cases

recommended before any supply is given. A distribution of clothes takes place once every two years, when about L.300 worth of clothing is distributed amongst a thousand individuals, the name of the society being stamped on every article. In 1838, the rules of the society were so far modified that the clothes, instead of being given, were lent to the persons receiving them.

LADIES' WORKING SOCIETY.

This Society was instituted in 1837. The object of it is to supply industrious females with needlework. The goods when made are sold at a low rate, the proceeds being applied, along with the contributions of members, to the purchasing of material for the manufacture of more. The society is managed by a committee of ladies.

DORCAS SOCIETIES.

The first Dorcas Society in Aberdeen was instituted in 1840, by the Rev. David Wallace, pastor of the Congregational Church, Frederick Street. The design of this society is to provide clothing for the poor, but principally for those belonging to their own Church and congregation. It is supported by voluntary contributions, and managed by a committee of ladies, who, from the prosperity of the funds, have been enabled to extend the charity to the poor of the neighbourhood.


Since the commencement of this society, two si-

milar societies have been formed in the city, one in connexion with Messrs. Thomson and Arthur's Church, George Street ; the other, with the Rev. Mr. Kennedy's of Blackfriars Street.

The foregoing societies appear to us to exhaust the list of our charitable and benevolent institutions. There are several smaller associations, connected with different churches in the city, the details of which we could not get hold of ; but, for all public purposes, those we have given will be quite sufficient.

CHAPTER VIII.

MEDICAL INSTITUTIONS.

 ERHAPS the surgeons of the present day will give us little thank for tracing the practice of surgery in the city to the barbers of 1537. Such, however, is the fact; and it would appear that the barbers, or *leechers*, of those days had been rather distinguished in the surgical line; for we find that they obtained from the Town Council a Seal of Cause, and became distinguished by the title of "Barbers, Surgeons, and Periwigmakers' Society."

In the course of time, the light of medical science threw the surgery of the *leechers* of 1537 into the shade, and, ever since, the medical institutions of the city have been prominent features in the general group of our local establishments. This has been already indicated in our account of the General Dispensary and Infirmary, leaving only to be noticed here the Medical School and Medical Classes.

THE MEDICAL SCHOOL.

In the year 1789, twelve students of medicine formed themselves into a society for their mutual improvement, and met at stated periods to discuss various questions connected with medical science. For a long time, their meetings were held in one of the

class rooms of Marischal College ; but, by the year 1818, the society had grown so strong that it was enabled to raise subscriptions and donations to a large amount, and erect an elegant Hall in King Street. There is an excellent library and museum connected with the society. The members meet weekly.

The number on the roll of the ordinary members is at present 58. There are, besides, a few honorary members, distinguished men, foreigners, and others, principally, though not exclusively, of the medical profession. Of the original projectors of the Medical Society, the following only are now alive, viz. :—Sir James M'Grigor, Bart., the present active and enlightened Director-General of the Medical Department of the Army ; Dr. John Grant, who has been for some years resident at Forres ; Dr. Collin Allan, at present settled in Nova Scotia ; and Dr. James Moir, who has been long established as a practitioner in Aberdeen.


MEDICAL CLASSES.

Besides the Medical Lectures connected with the Universities, there are Medical Classes taught by gentlemen well qualified for the task. In these classes the various departments of medical science are amply provided for, and last year an understanding was come to with several of the Professors of Medicine in our Colleges by which both schools go on harmoniously.

Attendance on the lectures in these classes qualifies for examination at the Colleges of Surgeons and at the Public Boards.

CHAPTER IX.

LEGAL INSTITUTIONS.

IR WALTER SCOTT says, "some lawyer expressed to Lord Elibank an opinion that, at the Union, the English law should have been extended all over Scotland. 'I cannot say how that might have answered our purpose,' said Lord Patrick, 'but it would scarce have suited *yours*, since by this time the *Aberdeen Advocates* would have possessed themselves of all the business in Westminster Hall.'" And, lest the quiz should be misunderstood, his biographer, Lockhart, adds a note, by way of explanation, to this effect:—"The *Attorneys* of the town of Aberdeen are styled *Advocates*. This valuable privilege is said to have been bestowed at an early period by some (sportive) monarch." What was told by the author of *Waverley* as a joke has, nevertheless, some substance in it; for we question much whether the bar of Modern Athens, all things considered, can boast of as great a number of its members possessing themselves of "business in Westminster Hall" as the bar of Aberdeen. The garrulous editor of the *Quarterly* knows right well that it cannot, and perhaps it was the consciousness of this fact that stirred his bile. Should he have occasion to revert to

the subject, we would suggest that he show how it happens that, when an Aberdeen lawyer sets himself to go southward, he seldom thinks it worth his while to stop at Edinburgh.

Lawyers have never been favourites with the populace of Aberdeen ; but somehow or other they have multiplied amongst us, and most of them seem to thrive well. For many years they were proscribed as office-bearers in the civil and ecclesiastical establishments of the city ; and, but for the patriotic exertions of Provost Ewen in 1593, himself an advocate, the law might have been held in equal odium still. But "law, law, law" is now the order of the day ; and, on all public occasions, "the bench and the bar" is drunk with all the honours.

The practitioners of the law in Aberdeen were recognised by the title of "Advocati," as early as 1633, and under that title they received a charter from the Crown in 1774, and again another, of a more extensive nature, in 1799, in which they are styled "the President and Society of Advocates in Aberdeen."

In 1786, a library was commenced, and now contains nearly 2000 volumes. It is supported by contributions and subscriptions.

The great object of the society is to provide a fund for the support of indigent members, widows, orphans, and nearest relatives of deceased members.

The allowance to a widow is about L.60 per annum. The entry-money of the society is L.120, and L.5 5s. to the library. It contains about 150 members. The society lately erected a spacious Hall in Union Street, where all its business is now transacted.

The "Society of Writers" is a subordinate institution to the Society of Advocates, established in 1826. Its members meet every Saturday evening, from the first Saturday in October to the last Saturday in March, and occupy themselves in discussions and other business calculated to advance the interests of law and literature.

COURTS OF LAW, &c.—The courts of law that sit at Aberdeen are the Circuit Court of Justiciary, the Sheriff Court, and the Sheriff Small Debt Court.

CIRCUIT COURT.

The Circuit Court of Justiciary, for the counties of Aberdeen, Banff, and Kincardine, meets at Aberdeen twice a-year, in the months of April and September, for the trial of criminal cases by one or two of the Lords. Appeals, in certain civil cases, from the inferior courts, are also heard by this court.

SHERIFF COURT.

The Sheriff is Judge-Ordinary of his Sheriffdom or shire, and accordingly judges at present in all actions and causes not specially by law or usage appropriated to other courts. Thus, all personal causes, actions of debt, of whatever amount, possessory actions, claims for aliment by paupers, and such like, belong to this court. Processes of Cessio, and Admiralty causes, are by late acts made competent in this court.

SHERIFF SMALL DEBT AND CIRCUIT COURT.

The Small Debt Court was formerly stationary, like the ordinary court ; but, by the Act of Parliament, 1 Victoria, cap. 41 (the new Small Debt Act), *Circuit* Courts, for the trial of small debt causes (actions for sums under L.8 6s. 8d.), are established in addition to the ordinary Small Debt Court, and the Sheriff is ordained to divide the county into districts, and hold a certain number of courts in each annually.

The Sheriff's criminal jurisdiction formerly embraced even capital punishments, but it is now much limited. He holds a Criminal Court twice a-year.

The Sheriff also exercises certain *ministerial* duties. He receives the royal revenues—returns the assize or jury to the Justiciary Court—presides at the election, and returns to Chancery the names of the persons elected to serve in Parliament for the city and county—strikes the *fars* of all grain, &c., within the county.

COMMISSARY COURT.

The Commissary Court came in place of the Bishops or Consistorial Court, which formerly exercised extensive jurisdiction. It claimed jurisdiction in all ecclesiastical matters, which its judges extended very widely. Thus, actions of divorce, adultery, bastardy, tithes, patronage, scandal, breach of vows, confirming the testament of persons deceased, &c., came to be appropriated to this court. By 4 Geo. IV. c. 97, the Sheriff is appointed Commissary, and the Com-

missariat and the Sheriffdom are made co-extensive. Actions of declarator, of marriage, divorce, &c. are transferred to the Court of Session, and the chief business of the Commissariat is now to confirm testaments.

JUSTICE OF PEACE COURT.

The office of Justice of the Peace was introduced into Scotland in 1609. As signified by their name, the Justices judge in riots and breaches of the peace—they enforce the laws against beggars and vagrants—the game laws—and, with the Commissioners of Supply, they regulate the highways, bridges, and ferries. The execution of various penal statutes, revenues, laws, and others, is also committed to them. The Quarter Sessions are held on the first Tuesday of the months of March, May, August, and last Tuesday of October. Special sessions are occasionally held.

BURGH OR BAILLIE COURT.

The jurisdiction of the Magistrates (Provost and Baillies, though it is a Baillie that usually sits in Court) is equal to that of the Sheriff within their territory—the royalty of the burgh—but it is not *exclusive* of the Sheriff's authority, except, perhaps, in questions strictly belonging to the police of the burgh, which more properly pertain to the Magistrates.

POLICE COURT.

This is a Criminal Court, constituted under the Aberdeen Police Act (14th May, 1829), for the trial of offences against the act, breaches of the peace, theft under the value of L.10, reset, fraud, &c. &c. It sits daily in the old or Baillie Court-house, at eleven o'clock, A.M.

CHAPTER X.

THE PRISON.

UNTIL the year 1840, when a General Prison Board was appointed to take charge of all the prisons in Scotland, there were in Aberdeen a Jail and a Bridewell, for the confinement of debtors and punishment of criminals.

The Bridewell was built in 1809, at a cost of L.12,000. It contains 109 cells, each 8 feet by 7, with a height of 7 feet 8 inches, besides two infirmaries, and eight small sleeping rooms adjoining. The Jail or Prison was built in 1829. It contains 60 cells, and 10 day rooms. The criminals are not permitted to hold any intercourse with each other. The two institutions are called the East and West Prisons, the one being used for male, the other for female prisoners. The following statement, which was made by the Governor, Mr. A. W. Chalmers, in 1839, will give some idea of the state of education, &c. of the persons then generally committed to the Bridewell :—

“During the year from 1st January to 31st December, 1838, the number of individuals committed was 252, of which there were recommitments, 32, making the number committed for the first time 220. Of these 220, there were 42 who could not read, 76 could read with difficulty, and 102 could read easily; 124 could not write, 82 could write a little, and 14

could write easily; 83 attended no place of worship, 103 attended church occasionally, and 34 had been in the habit of attending regularly; 67 were natives of the town of Aberdeen, 40 of the county of Aberdeen, 40 of the counties north of Aberdeen, 48 of the counties south of Aberdeen, 14 of England, 9 of Ireland, and 2 were foreigners.

"Of the whole 252 commitments, there were attributed to intoxication, 131; idleness and bad company, 78; want, 10; uncertain, denied their guilt, &c., 33.

"By a return made for one year previous to August, 1838, it appears that there were in the Jail during that period :—

	Males.	Females.
Under 17 years of age,	79	16
Above do.	231	95
	<hr/> 310	<hr/> 111


"The state of education among these was found to be as follows :—

	Males.	Females.
Could not read,	29	10
Could read a little,	253	90
Could read easily,	28	11
	<hr/> 310	<hr/> 111
Could not write,	75	59
Could write with difficulty,	209	42
Could write easily,	26	10
	<hr/> 310	<hr/> 111

Since 1839, the average number of prisoners has decreased about 10 per cent. The Jail and Bridewell are now known as "the East and West Prisons."

CHAPTER XI.

THE POST OFFICE.

N the year 1590, the Magistrates established a Post Office at Aberdeen, for the purpose of conveying their despatches to and from Edinburgh. A person was appointed to conduct these despatches, under the name of the "Council Post;" and, in token of his authority, wore a blue livery, with the town's armorial bearings wrought in silver upon the right sleeve of his coat.

In 1667, a regular post was established by the Magistrates to run twice a-week, leaving Edinburgh on Tuesday and Thursday, and Aberdeen on Wednesday and Friday. The rate of postage was, for a single letter, 2s. ; for a double letter, 4s. ; and for a packet weighing one ounce, 5s. The revenue was confirmed to the town, by an act of the Privy Council, in 1667 ; but, in 1674, the office was placed under the charge of a Postmaster-General for Scotland. In 1695, the Post Office of Scotland received the sanction of Parliament, and posts were appointed all over the kingdom. The mail between Aberdeen and Edinburgh now ran three times a-week, arriving the first night at Dundee, the second at Montrose, and the third at Aberdeen. The postage was now reduced to

3d. for a single letter, 6d. for a double letter, and so on, increasing according to the inclosures.

In 1750, the mail was conveyed from stage to stage by postboys ; and, in 1755, a mail, thrice a-week, was carried between Aberdeen and Inverness. On the 10th of October, 1763, a post was established, five times a-week, betwixt London and Edinburgh ; but the London mail only arrived in Aberdeen on the sixth day after its departure from London. On the 31st of July, 1798, a coach and four was despatched from Edinburgh for Aberdeen. It left at nine o'clock in the morning, and arrived here at six o'clock next morning, the whole time thus occupied being twenty-one hours. Consequent upon the general improvement of the Post Office between Aberdeen and Edinburgh, were the establishment of foot-runners to all the towns and villages in the north, and, ultimately, of mail coaches to the more populous places, such as Banff, Huntly, and Inverness. The system of conveying the mails by coach continues till the present day. We have now, however, two mails daily to and from Edinburgh, and the mail from London reaches Aberdeen in 45 hours. From the period that the Post Office became a source of national revenue, the postage dues gradually advanced as the exigencies of the national Exchequer required it ; but, in 1840, in accordance with a proposal made by Mr. Rowland Hill, the whole system of charge was changed from a graduated scale, according to distance, to a uniform rate of one penny per half-ounce weight, all over the kingdom, twopence for an ounce weight, and so on up to sixteen ounces, which is the maximum, at a rate of

2s. 8d., payable in advance, failing which the postage is doubled. Letters and parcels of all descriptions are now carried by post. Letters to the Colonies are now charged at the rate of 1s. an ounce, and those to foreign places according to a graduated scale. One of the most valuable improvements in the business of the Post Office is the facility which it now affords of sending money by post, without any risk, small sums, not exceeding L.2, being only charged threepence, while any sum, not exceeding L.5, may be sent for sixpence, exclusive of the postage stamp.

The Post Office of Aberdeen is allowed on all hands to be conducted in a most efficient manner; and, being about to be removed to new and most commodious premises in New Market Street, the public will be well provided for in this institution of local commerce.


THE REVENUE OF THE POST OFFICE.—Perhaps the Post Office and Customs Revenues afford the best index to the gradual advancement of trade and commerce in Aberdeen during the present century. The latter we have already noticed—the former stands thus :—

1787	.....	L.2,000
1818	.....	8,500
1839	.....	10,000

Since 1840, the number of letters has increased fully three times, and is still increasing. The revenue, by the reduction of the postage, is now only worth about two-thirds of what it was in 1829.

CHAPTER XII.

BANKS.

HE term bank is from *banco*, the Italian word for bank. It had its origin in the practice of the Lombard Jews in Italy, who exchanged money and bills in the public market places, on benches, during the revival of commerce there in the 12th century. When any of the bankers failed, it was customary to break his bench into pieces. Hence the origin of the term bankrupt.

The first public banks in Europe were established on the Continent. The *Bank of Venice* was instituted in 1171. Its capital consisted of a loan advanced to the state transferable on the books of the bank. It was a deposit bank, and opened accounts with depositors of gold, silver, and other precious metals, making payment to them by a transfer from one name to another in their bank accounts. In 1587, the capital of this bank was five millions of ducats. At the subversion of the republic, in 1797, it began to decline; and in 1808 it was discontinued. The Bank of Venice afforded a model for the banks of Barcelona and Genoa, which were founded in the fourteenth century; the Bank of Amsterdam, founded in 1609, and the Bank of Hamburg, founded in 1619. Most of the

continental banks of recent establishment proceed on the same principle.

The Lombard Italians extended a branch of their trade to London in the 13th century, and shared the business with the Jews, who during the middle ages were the principal money dealers in England. For nearly three centuries, the London merchants were in the practice of lodging their money in the Tower, and drawing it out as occasion required; but, in 1640, Charles I. seized L.200,000 of these deposits, after which the goldsmiths were employed as depositaries.

By and by, these goldsmiths began to borrow and lend money on interest, and the receipts which they gave for deposits circulated much in the same way as do our modern bank notes. This facility of exchange, which extended its ramifications to the provinces, gave a new impetus to commerce. The Bank of England was instituted in 1694, with a capital of L.1,200,000. The capital had increased to upwards of L.14,000,000 in 1816, which was lent to government as it was raised. The capital is now L.26,000,000. It is a bank of issue, deposit, and loan, with exclusive privileges secured by royal charter. In 1708, an act of Parliament was passed limiting all other banks of issue in England to six partners. This had the effect of giving the Bank of England a monopoly of business, it being the only joint-stock bank in that country, and ruining the greater part of the provincial banks, with their limited number of partners. In 1826, the act of 1807 was partially repealed, and since then joint-stock banks have been formed in all the places beyond the metropolitan districts.

The principle of individual responsibility is the great security of Joint Stock Banking Companies. The fact that a person, on becoming a partner of such a company, is liable for the intrusions of the bank, to the extent of his whole property, should it be required, constitutes a powerful motive to watchfulness of its management, while, at the same time, it affords the strongest guarantee to depositors that their money is perfectly safe.

The system of banking was introduced into Scotland in 1695, when the Bank of Scotland was founded. Notes payable on demand were first issued by this bank in 1704. In 1727, the Royal Bank was established. In 1746, the British Linen Company was chartered; but, having soon after abandoned the linen trade, it became exclusively a banking institution. In 1810, the Commercial Bank of Scotland was instituted, and was followed, in 1825, by the National Bank. These banks were all privileged by royal charters. The following table shows the amount of capital they possess, and the profitable investment they have afforded to the shareholders :—

CHARTERED BANKS IN SCOTLAND.

Designation.	Instituted.	Partners.	Branches.	Paid-up Capital.	DIVIDEND.		Share Paid.	Price, Aug., 1840.
					Rate.	Payable.		
				L.			L.	L. s.
1. Bank of Scotland,	1695	679	31	1,000,000	6	April, Oct..	100	166 0
2. Royal Bank,.....	1727	764	7	2,000,000	5½	Jan., July..	100	180 0
3. British Linen Co.,	1746	164	44	500,000	8	June, Dec..	100	238 0
4. Commercial Bank,	1810	519	52	600,000	7	Jan., July...	100	178 0
5. National Bank,....	1825	1238	33	600,000	6	Jan., July...	10	14 19

Besides these, there have been established in Scot-

land, during the period above specified, twenty-three unchartered banks, as noted in the subjoined table :—

UNCHARTERED BANKING COMPANIES IN SCOTLAND.

Designation.	Instituted.	Partners.	Branches.
1. Aberdeen Bank,	1767	189	11
2. Aberdeen Town and County Bank,	1825	491	10
3. Arbroath Bank,	1825	80	1
4. Ayr Bank,	1773	11	6
5. Ayrshire Banking Company,	1830	97	7
6. Caledonian Banking Company,	1838	1100	8
7. Central Bank of Scotland,	1834	465	5
8. City of Glasgow Bank,	1839	779	..
9. Clydesdale Banking Company,	1837	818	3
10. Dundee Banking Company,	1763	52	1
11. Dundee Union Bank,	1809	82	4
12. Eastern Bank of Scotland,	1838	774	1
13. Edinburgh and Leith Bank,	1838	785	6
14. { Forbes, Sir W., and Co., Glas- } { gow Union Banking Company, }	1830	508	20
15. Glasgow and Ship Bank,	1749	28	1
16. Greenock Bank,	1785	..	3
17. Leith Bank,	1792	9	3
18. North of Scotland Banking Co.,	1836	1564	23
19. Paisley Commercial Banking Co.,	1839	344	1
20. Perth Banking Company,	1766	182	3
21. Renfrewshire Banking Company,	1802	..	5
22. Southern Bank of Scotland,	1837	226	7
23. Western Bank of Scotland,	1832	469	16

The whole of these banks issue notes, and all are joint-stock companies, except Nos. 4, 15, 16, 17, 21. Two other joint-stock banks are at this date (August, 1840) projected—the *Greenock Union Banking Company*, and the *Glasgow Joint-Stock Banking Company*.

In these banks, both chartered and unchartered, deposits are received from L.10 upwards, which are repaid on demand, with interest at a rate varying from 2 to 3½ per cent. There are two kinds of deposits :—

1st, Those in which money is invested for the purposes of security and interest, without being acted upon; and, 2d, Accounts current, in which a party may pay in and draw out at pleasure, interest being allowed on the daily balances in the hands of the bank. In the year 1729, the royal bank commenced a system of cash accounts, which has been continued with great advantage, both to the banks and the trading public, down to the present day. It was simply the bank receiving a bond of security for a given sum in favour of a third party, who might operate to the amount of the bond on payment of interest on the current balances at the market rate of discount on bills. This is called a cash account. The number of these accounts at present in Scotland is estimated at 15,000, and the total amount of bonds at L.7,500,000. Bills are discounted at rates varying from 4 to 5 per cent. The notes issued are for sums of L.1, L.5, L.10, L.20, and L.100, payable on demand. The amount in circulation just now is about L.3,300,000. The Scottish banks negotiate bills on all parts of the United Kingdom; and, by acting in concert upon an organised system of exchange, their mutual claims, arising out of the possession of notes, drafts, or cheques, are settled at short intervals.

The system of banking in Scotland has been proved, by experience, to be at once a system of almost perfect security, and of admirable adaptation to the circumstances of the country.

The rapid increase in the number of banks, and especially of their respective branches, has been con-

sidered by some as indicating over speculation ; but, in reply to this, it is argued by others that, in proportion as branches are multiplied, the circulation is naturally reduced, inasmuch as the greater the number of branches the fewer notes are likely to be floating. When there were only a few banks in Edinburgh, with scarcely any branches in the country, notes once issued might have circulated until the floating debt reached an amount which, if pressed on the banks, would overturn them ; but, now that there are banks all over the country, the notes are paid in almost every other day, few parties being inclined to put them in a drawer, and expose them to the risk of being stolen, when they may put them in the bank, but a few paces in some cases, and in most but a few miles off. In this view of the matter, the circulation would be reduced just as the number of banks and their branches multiplied ; and, from evidence collected by a Committee of the House of Commons, which inquired into our whole system of banking, during the sessions of Parliament for 1840-41, it would appear that as the number of banks has increased the circulation has rather decreased.

ABERDEEN BANKING COMPANY.

In the course of 1766, a number of the gentlemen of the town and county formed themselves into a copartnery, for the purpose of establishing a native banking company, and a capital stock of L.72,000 was subscribed for, in shares of L.500 each. On the 1st of January, 1767, the bank was opened for busi-

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ness. Its original paid-up capital, of L.150 per share, sold, in 1839, for upwards of L.3,000. The shares have since been reduced.

ABERDEEN TOWN AND COUNTY BANK.

This bank originated with a few of the capitalists and leading merchants in Aberdeen, who were of opinion that a new banking company in Aberdeen, conducted upon sound and liberal principles, would be productive of advantage to the public. The bank commenced business on the 5th April, 1825, with a nominal capital of L.750,000, divided into 1500 shares of L.500 each, which, on the 5th March, 1836, was increased to L.1,000,000, divided into 10,000 shares of L.100 each, of which L.15 per share has been paid, making the paid-up capital L.150,000. The dividends paid upon the paid-up capital have been as follow:—In 1827, 4 per cent.; 1830, 5 per cent.; 1835, 6 per cent.; 1836, $6\frac{3}{4}$ per cent.; 1837, $7\frac{1}{2}$ per cent.; 1839, $7\frac{1}{2}$ per cent.; and 1841, $7\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. The bank is managed by a Governor and twenty Directors, chosen annually by the proprietors. The chief management, however, is devolved on a Committee of seven of the Directors, chosen annually by the Board. The bank has also fourteen Honorary Directors, who, however, do not interfere with the management of the bank. The bank has nine branches, and the number of shareholders is five hundred.

NORTH OF SCOTLAND BANKING COMPANY.

This Company, the Head Office and Direction of which is in Aberdeen, was projected by Messrs.

Adam & Anderson, Advocates, in July, 1836, and was so favourably received by all classes in the north of Scotland, that, in the month of October following, the first instalment of the Company, L.2 10s. per share, was paid, and the bank opened for general business.

The second instalment of the same amount was paid in March, 1837; but no transfer of shares was permitted until the bank had been one year in operation. The subscribed capital of the bank is L.1,000,000, in 50,000 shares of L.20 each, of which L.5 per share has been paid up, thus making the paid-up capital L.250,000. On the first year's transactions no dividend was paid, the profits having been applied in liquidating ALL the expenses incurred in the formation of the Company, and in forming a reserved fund. In 1838, a dividend of 5 per cent. was paid; in 1839, $5\frac{1}{2}$ per cent.; and in 1840 and 1841, 6 per cent. The highest price at which the shares of this Company have been sold was L.7 12s. per share, being a premium of 52 per cent.

The peculiar feature of this Company is the number of its partners, the last return to the Stamp Office exhibiting 1,594 (a greater number than any other bank in Scotland), nearly all of whom reside in Aberdeen and neighbourhood, or in the vicinity of its branches; and a very large proportion appears to be parties engaged in business, who have it in their power to promote the interests of the bank.

Besides these native banks, there are branches in Aberdeen of the Bank of Scotland, the Commercial Bank of Scotland, the National Bank of Scotland, and the British Linen Company, all doing extensive business.

SAVINGS' BANK.

A Savings' Bank was instituted in Aberdeen in 1815, on a plan which admitted of deposits from 2s. to L.5, taken in every Saturday, between nine and ten o'clock, not more than L.30 being held for one depositor. The Aberdeen Banking Company, for several years, allowed five per cent. interest on the moneys lodged in their bank by the Savings Bank, which, with the liberality of parties taking an interest in the institution, enabled the managers to defray the expense of management without trenching on the common fund. Some years ago, the directors made a fortunate purchase of three per cents., which enabled them to increase the auxiliary fund to nearly L.1,200. The rate of interest has been for several years, and is now, $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. A depositor may now lodge to the extent of L.50. The funds of the bank are chiefly vested in first heritable securities, and have gradually increased as under :—


Years ending April.	No. of Depositors.	Value of Deposits.
1833	2,967	L.26,212
1834	3,195	28,425
1835	3,570	32,380
1836	3,981	37,062
1837	4,247	39,905
1838	4,762	41,432
1839	5,420	47,155
1840	5,994	49,878
1841	6,632	55,445

The bank is now open every Thursday, Friday, and Saturday, from nine to ten, A.M., and from seven to eight, P.M.

CHAPTER XIII.

INSURANCE COMPANIES.

LIFE INSURANCE.

HE facilities which now exist for realizing the benefits of life insurance are very great, yet only one in sixty of the population who stand in the relation of husband and father avails himself of them. The advantages of life insurance appear so self-evident that one would think they require but to be known to be universally appreciated; but, either from selfishness, ignorance, or thoughtlessness, the great mass of the community give themselves no concern about them. It is difficult to account for this indifference, especially when it is viewed in reference to the growing intelligence of the age, and the zealous efforts that have been made for many years to throw light upon the subject of life insurance.

Mr. John Reid, Stockbroker, Edinburgh, to whose valuable "Manual of the Scottish Stocks and British Funds" we feel much indebted, says, "It will hardly be credited by natives of the sister kingdom, that, only a few years ago, a very deep-rooted prejudice existed in the north of Scotland against life assurance, as a

presumptuous interference with the ways of Divine Providence; and, on an attempt being made to establish a Life Assurance Company in that quarter, the whole Bible was ransacked by the clergy for authorities against the attempted innovation. Meetings of Presbyteries and Synods took place, and fearful denunciations were pronounced from the pulpits against the originators and supporters of the scheme;" and it will scarcely be believed that this deplorable manifestation of popular delusion happened within the last twenty years! Perhaps to its influence, more than anything else, can be traced the slow progress which attended the early growth of life insurance in Aberdeen.

Upon the general question of Life Insurance, we think we cannot do better than quote the following remarks from the "North of Scotland Almanac" for 1840:—

It is a failing in human nature, that persons consider "all men mortal but themselves." Each looks forward to the enjoyment of health and life for years to come; and many reckon that they will be able, by their own diligence and industry, to accumulate as much as will render themselves and their relatives independent. But, if such persons would take a glance at a mortality table, and observe how many of the "number living" at their own age are reckoned among the "decrements" ere another year of age succeeds, their certainty of life would be weakened, and they would wisely consider that the present time only was their own, and that it was their duty, while hoping for the best, to provide against the worst.

"The *severity* of loss," said one of the speakers at the last annual meeting of the North of Scotland Assurance Com-

pany, "the *severity* of loss is that which is often experienced by the dependent, whether wife, or child, or friend, when their immediate protector is cut off by death. The great majority of men, in the present state of society, depend on their personal exertions; and, though their means may be affluent for the time, they have no certainty that those for whom their highest cares are engaged shall continue in the enjoyment of their present prosperity. Their resources may be cut off in the very act of improving or extending them; and I know no expenditure which can to such men be more satisfactory than that which, while it is easily spared, secures a provision to those for whom they are bound to provide when their own exertions shall be withdrawn. I speak not this in reference to men alone whose children or dependents would value a few thousands or hundreds secured to them in such a crisis; my remark is applicable equally to the man in whose sphere even tens of pounds would be desirable. Even he might, by prudence and foresight, and at a very small sacrifice, secure his home from the pressing penury which is so frequently experienced, and afford him and them the satisfaction that, come what may, their future prospects are not entirely hopeless."

There is only one way by which the consequences of early death can be provided against, and that is by Life Assurance. A competency may thus be guaranteed to the survivors; and, as far as regards pecuniary affairs, what was before a contingency, depending upon a thousand circumstances, becomes now an absolute certainty. Assurance Companies and Societies have been established for this purpose, and the amount of good which they have effected is incalculable, instances of which must have come to the knowledge of every one.

That so very small a proportion of the heads of families as that above stated "should have taken advantage of Life Assurance (says a writer in 'Chambers' Journal' for March, 1839) surely affords a striking view of—shall we call it the improvidence of mankind, or shall we not rather designate

it as their culpable selfishness? For what is the predicament of that man who, for the gratification of his affections, surrounds himself with a wife and children, and peaceably lives in the enjoyment of those precious blessings, with the knowledge that, ere three moments at any time shall have passed, the cessation of his existence may throw wife and children together into a state of destitution? When the case is fully reflected upon, it must certainly appear as one of extremely gross selfishness, notwithstanding that the world has not been accustomed to regard it in that light. If, indeed, it were utterly impossible to provide for a widow and orphans, no fault could fairly be found. And, no doubt, the little blame bestowed by the world on this account is owing to the fact that, till a recent period, no means of providing for these relatives existed. They were in those days invariably left to the mercy of the public. But that this occasioned many evils we may be abundantly satisfied, from the earnestness with which the founders of Christianity press the duty of succouring the widow and fatherless—one of them representing religion as almost entirely consisting in that benevolent action alone. Assuredly, if there had not been much misery from this cause, there would have been no need for so much urgency on the subject. But if we only consider for a moment how mainly every one is engaged in providing for himself, we must be satisfied of the extreme precariousness of any provision which is expected to come from parties not responsible. It is therefore the duty of every man to provide, while he yet lives, for his own; we would say that it is not more his duty to provide for their daily bread during his life, than it is to provide, as far as he can, against their being left penniless in the event of his death. Indeed, between these two duties there is no essential distinction, for Life Assurance makes the one as much a matter of current expenditure as the other. One part of his income can now be devoted by the head of a family to the necessities of the present; another may be stored up, by means of Life Assurance, to provide against

the future. And thus he may be said to do the whole of his duty towards his family, instead of, as is generally the case, only doing the half of it.

"It may be felt by many that, admitting this duty in full, their income is, nevertheless, insufficient to enable them to spare even the small sum necessary as an annual premium for Life Assurance. The necessities of the present are in their case so great that they do not see how they can afford it. We believe there can be no obstacle which is apt to appear more real than this, where an income is at all limited; and yet it is easy to show that no obstacle could be more ideal. It will readily be acknowledged by everybody who has an income at all, that there must be some who have smaller incomes. Say, for instance, that any man has L.400 per annum; he cannot doubt that there are some who have only L.350. Now, if these persons live on L.350, why may he not do so too, sparing the odd L.50 as a deposit for Life Assurance? In like manner, he who has L.200 may live as men do who have only L.175, and devote the remaining L.25 to have a sum assured upon his life;" and he who has L.100 a-year may live as those who have only L.85, applying the other L.15 for a Life Assurance. "It may require an effort to accomplish this; but is not the object worthy of an effort? And can any man be held as honest, or any way good, who will not make this effort, rather than be always liable to the risk of leaving in beggary the beings whom he most cherishes on earth, and for whose support he alone is responsible? It may perhaps be thought that we feel strongly on this subject. We own that we do; but, if the generality of men saw the case in its true light, they would feel as strongly as we do. They are only comparatively indifferent, because there has as yet been but a brief experience of a system for redeeming widows and orphans from poverty. When Life Assurance is as universally understood and practised as it ought to be, he who has not made such a provision, or something equivalent, for the possibility of his death, will, we verily trust, be looked on as a not less detestable monster

than he who will not work for his children's bread ; and his memory, after death, will be held in not less contempt."

The advantages of Life Assurance, and its moral obligation, being admitted, the next point to be ascertained is the terms of Assurance. Every Company and Society holds out in its prospectus certain advantages to be derived by those assuring with it. But the first inquiry by a person contemplating a Life Assurance will be, whether he ought to choose a Proprietary Company, or a Mutual Assurance Society? Each system has its peculiar advantages to recommend it, and there is generally little difficulty in making a choice. Assuming that a Proprietary office is preferred, the individual has to satisfy himself of the responsibility and respectability of the partners. In a matter of such importance, no prudent man will connect himself with a Company of which he knows nothing, and among the Directors of which there may not be a single name that he can recognise as a guarantee for the respectability of the concern. The rates of premium ought to be a secondary consideration to the security afforded for the fulfilment of the contract. When the latter condition is satisfactory, then the lowest rate of premium is to be preferred.

Let the system of Mutual Assurance be chosen, it then becomes necessary for the person proposing an assurance to satisfy himself as to the plan of management generally, and the ability of the parties connected with the office to conduct its business. The rates of premium are to be taken in connexion with the proportion of profits to be assigned to the assured, and the manner and periods of dividing such profits.

Those Associations which allow the assured to participate in the profits are either Proprietary Companies or Mutual Assurance Societies, having no other partners but the assured. In the first class, the proportion of the profits assigned to the assured varies in some from two-thirds to four-fifths of the whole—in some, it is a proportional part, after paying a certain percentage to the partners—in others, no statement is afforded of the mode of dividing the profits.

In all, the surplus or profit is after deduction of expenses, which, being at the discretion of the office, may be increased or diminished as suits its purpose. In the second class, the whole of the profits are the property of the assured; but, with scarcely an exception, a proportion is retained as "a guarantee fund"—a precaution quite unnecessary, when the high rates of premium charged by these Societies is taken into account, and which have always been found more than sufficient to meet contingencies. Such "guarantee funds" are only accumulating money for a future generation.

The first Life Insurance Company in Aberdeen was established in 1803, but it was given up in 1814. It was succeeded by the Aberdeen Fire and Life Insurance Company in 1826; and the North of Scotland Fire and Life Insurance Company in 1836, as noticed below.

ABERDEEN FIRE AND LIFE ASSURANCE COMPANY.

This Company was formed about the end of the year 1825. The Aberdeen Town and County Bank and this Company were instituted by the same parties, and were among the first experiments made to direct profitable trade into native channels. Both companies have tested the sagacity of their originators; they have been of immense benefit to the city, and have paid large returns to their shareholders. The business done by the Aberdeen Assurance Company was for some years very limited, as it was confined to the county and a few of the northern towns. In 1836, the directors extended the business, by appointing new agencies, of which there are now upwards of 150

spread over Great Britain. Only two of these are in Ireland, to the northern part of which the Company confine their business.

The dividends which the Company have paid since its commencement are as follow :—For the years 1826, 1827, 1828, 1829, and 1830, 5 per cent. ; 1831, 5 per cent. and $3\frac{3}{4}$ of bonus ; 1832, 1833, and 1834, 6 per cent. ; 1835, $8\frac{3}{4}$ per cent. ; 1836 and 1837, 10 per cent. ; 1838 and 1839, $11\frac{1}{4}$ per cent. ; and 1840, 12 per cent. The dividend is almost entirely paid out of the interest which the Company receive upon their capital and sinking fund. The capital of the Company is L.1,000,000, divided into 20,000 shares of L.50 each, of which L.2 per share is paid up. A few years ago, the old share was subdivided into four of L.12 10s. each, of which 10s. is paid, the selling price of which is L.1 5s. to L.1 6s. 6d. The business engaged in by the Company is Insurance against Fire and upon Lives—the sale of Annuities and Endowments—the purchase of Annuities, Reversions, and the like—the loan of money upon their policies—and to heirs of entail upon security of their life interests. They also, to some extent, act as a Bank of Deposit.

The number of partners at the end of 1840 was 679. The Company is under the management of twenty-one extraordinary and twenty-one ordinary Directors. Committees of proprietors are established in Edinburgh, Glasgow, and Perth.

NORTH OF SCOTLAND FIRE AND LIFE ASSURANCE
COMPANY.

This Company was established in 1836. The head office is in Aberdeen. The capital is L.1,000,000 sterling, divided into 50,000 shares of L.20 each, upon which an instalment of L.1 per share has been paid. The Company, which consists of nearly 1000 partners, of the first respectability and influence, has already secured a very extensive business, and from the profits of the *Fire Department* (besides laying aside a large reserved fund) the Directors have been enabled to pay a dividend of 6 per cent. annually for the last three years. The stock bears a high premium.

There are two or three Mutual Assurance Societies in town, intended chiefly for the benefit of the working classes, and well adapted to secure a comfortable provision, in case of sickness or death.


There are a number of agencies of London and Edinburgh Companies also established in Aberdeen. Amongst the former is the "General Annuity Endowment Association," which proceeds upon a principle different from all the others. The object of the institution is to provide annuities for relatives under certain contingencies, and on a very moderate premium. For example, a person entering under thirty years of age may, in the event of his death, secure an annuity of L.22 7s. to his widow, or other relative, on payment of a few pounds of entry-money, and a premium of about L2. per annum. The institution has been thirteen years in existence; and we see, by the last

statement of its accounts, that the capital, which is invested in the Government funds, now amounts to L.132,000.

There are several native Marine Insurance Companies in the city. These are the Aberdeen Sea Insurance Company, the Aberdeen Marine Insurance Company, and the Bon-Accord Marine Insurance Company, the whole of which stand high in public estimation.

CHAPTER XIV.

MANUFACTURING ESTABLISHMENTS.

E have partly anticipated the manufacturing interests of the city in our remarks on imports and exports ; but there are several branches of manufacturing industry which claim a more substantial notice, and first in order we take the

WOOLLEN MANUFACTURES.

About the close of the sixteenth century, Michael Wandail, a Fleming, commenced the manufacture of "grogams, worsteds, and stamings," under the authority of the Magistrates. The weaver corporation at first offered a pretty strong opposition to Wandail ; but, being anxious to get at the secret of his manufacturing art, consented to let him go on, upon condition of his "taking into his employment an apprentice, and instructing him in weaving and dying these sorts of cloth." This apprentice soon after turned his business to a profitable account, and, ultimately, the woollen manufactures of the city became its principal source of industry and wealth.

In 1640, Robert Johnston, Esq., of London, a native of Aberdeen, bequeathed L.600 sterling, to be in-

vested in trade and manufactures, for the employment of the poor people in the city, and the yearly profits of which were to be appropriated for the relief of the "blind, lame, and impotent." The Magistrates and Council were constituted trustees of the fund. In 1703, a contract of copartnery was entered into with the Honourable W. Keith, son of the Earl Marischal, Robert Barclay of Ury, and several citizens of Aberdeen, with the money, and a manufacturing establishment was started, which was the first of the kind in town. It does not appear, however, to have answered the end intended, little farther mention being made of it in the Council records.

The next branch of woollen manufacture that was started was that of stockings; and to such a degree of perfection was stocking weaving carried, that Aberdeen became famed for its stockings all over the Continent. All ranks of the citizens were engaged in it, and for many years it proved a fruitful source of employment "to the young and the aged of every description, to the deaf and the dumb, and even to those who were bed-ridden or disabled from every other kind of work." The stockings appear to have been of exquisite quality, both as regards the wool and the workmanship; for Dr. Anderson, in his "Essay on National Industry," says a pair presented by the Magistrates to Field-Marshal Keith "could easily be drawn through an ordinary thumb ring," and "were valued at five guineas." So fine was the wool, and so delicately spun, that "60,000 yards of yarn had been drawn from one pound!"

In consequence of the introduction into England,

about the middle of the eighteenth century, of superior machinery to that which was used in Aberdeen, and the disastrous effects of the civil war, the woollen manufactures of the city gradually declined. We have yet two large houses engaged in the trade, and some smaller ones ; but, within the last two years, we regret to say, the number of hands employed in them has fallen off from 2500 to about 2000.

LINEN MANUFACTURE.

In 1749, a company was formed for the manufacture of linen thread and cloth, having a bleaching work attached to it, under the name of "Leys, Still, & Co.," which was afterwards changed to "Leys, Masson, & Co.," and has continued a prosperous establishment to the present day.

Other two flax mills were subsequently established—one at Broadford, originally the property of John Maberly of London, now of Messrs. Richards & Co. ; the other, of Milne, Cruden, & Co.—for manufacture of thread, both bleached and coloured. The number of hands employed in these works is about 7,600 ; the amount of wages paid weekly, L.2,600 to L.2,700, at rates varying from 2s. 6d. to 8s. to females, and from 7s. to L.1 1s. to males, with the exception of overseers and others in charge, who are paid higher rates.

COTTON MANUFACTURE.

There were four houses engaged in this department of manufactures, until last year, when one

stopped. The other three employ about 2000 hands, and pay from L.700 to L.800 of wages weekly.

IRON MANUFACTURE.

There are in Aberdeen and its vicinity eight foundries, where every description of castings can be executed. These foundries employ altogether about 1000 hands, and pay, at an average, L.1000 a-week for wages.

PAPER MAKING.

In the year 1770, a paper mill was erected at Peterculter, and has been a very successful establishment. There is a mill, on a small scale, at Waterton, and another at Muggiemoss. These three manufacture coarse paper. A mill for the manufacture of writing and printing paper has been for a long time in operation at Stonywood, on the Don. The duty paid to Government on paper manufactured at these establishments is about L.12,000 per annum. They employ from 300 to 400 hands, a great part of whom are women.

ROPE AND TWINE MANUFACTURES.

We have eight works employed in making ropes, three of which are almost exclusively engaged in cordage for vessels. About 200 men are employed in rope making, and are paid about L.5000 per annum of wages.

COMB MANUFACTURE.

Comb-making is a trade that has been carried on in Aberdeen since 1788; but, prior to the year 1830, there were very few hands engaged in it. At that time a new establishment was set a-going, on an improved method. This establishment soon got very extensive, and now employs above 300 persons. In 1836, a second one commenced, which employs about 60 hands. The former is the property of Messrs. Stewart, Rowell, & Co.; the latter, of Mr. John M'Pherson.

Comb-making is rather an ingenious kind of a business. The combs are generally made from either hoof or horn, or shell, according to the quality wanted. In preparing the materials there is a good deal of heat used, and, along with heat, there is a considerable degree of pressure applied, for the purpose of imparting shape or giving colour. Some of the tools are capable of exerting a pressure of from three to four tons, by the mere application of the hand. But the cutting of the teeth is the most ingenious part. It is done by a small machine, wrought by the hand in some cases, and in others by steam power, and is so regulated that nothing is lost, one comb being taken out of the other. One man will sometimes cut 84 dozen pairs of combs a-day. There are about eleven of these machines kept constantly working in Messrs. Stewart, Rowell, & Co.'s establishment, which shows that the quantity of combs made is very great. We believe it amounts to about 86,000 per week. The steam power employed for polishing alone is equal to upwards of 14 horses.

Besides supplying the towns of Scotland, Aberdeen sends combs to the London market, to Birmingham, and even to Sheffield, the principal seat of the manufacture in England. In fact, Messrs. Stewart, Rowell, & Co.'s establishment is the largest in Great Britain, and Mr. M'Pherson's, we believe, is the fourth or fifth in extent, as compared with the largest establishments in England. The horns used are principally brought from South America, and hoofs are gathered from all the principal towns. A great many are also imported from Hamburg, Rotterdam, and other towns on the Continent.

GRANITE WORKS.

Aberdeen has been called the "Marble City of the North," on account of the fine clear colour and enduring quality of its native granite. For many years it has supplied London with paving and other stones. Some idea of the extent of the stone trade between Aberdeen and London may be formed when we state that the stone merchants receive, in return for their granite exported, L.60,000 per annum. Some of the largest public works in the kingdom are built of Aberdeen granite, amongst which are Waterloo Bridge and London Bridge over the Thames, the Duke of York's Pillar in Waterloo Place, and the principal bridge over the Clyde at Glasgow.

It was long thought to be impossible to polish granite on account of its great hardness; but latterly this difficulty has been got over. In 1834, Mr. Alex. M'Donald invented machinery for polishing granite, by

which he was able to produce articles, at a moderate price, and of a much finer polish than anything of the sort ever manufactured before in this country. He also erected machinery for sawing and polishing, which still farther reduced the price of the labour.

In 1835, Mr. William Leslie entered into partnership with him. Since that period, their business has been carried on under the firm of "M'Donald & Leslie." They are endeavouring to introduce the granite into the market, for the various purposes to which it is so well adapted.


They manufacture slabs for table tops, columns, pedestals, vases, chimney-pieces, monuments, &c. Lately they erected, in the Aberdeen Market, a fountain of the red granite, superior to anything of the sort in Europe.

They are at present executing a colossal statue of the late Duke of Gordon, after a model by Mr. Thomas Campbell of London. It is the first attempt that has been made in Europe of making a statue of granite, and good judges have pronounced it the most proper material for colossal statues.

The statue is to be erected in Aberdeen; and its appearance, we are persuaded, will convince the public that the Aberdeenshire granite is capable of being turned to more useful and ornamental purposes than it has been hitherto.

CHAPTER XV.

THE FISHERIES.

ALMON fishing is coeval with the history of the city. It was a valuable source of revenue for centuries, and the fishings on the town's property are yet worth a considerable sum per annum.

Salmon, until a recent period, were caught by trail and bag nets, but a great many are now taken by stake nets along the coast, near the efflux of the Dee and Don. At present there are 200 men engaged in the fishing here, whose earnings amount to about L.3000 for the season, when the fishing has been an average one. The annual take of salmon is about 20,000, averaging ten pounds, and of grilse, 40,000, averaging four pounds each. The take in 1640 was but 10,000 fish. They are chiefly exported to London in ice. A large quantity is boiled and prepared in tin cases, and but few sold in the home market. It is a curious fact, in connexion with the history of salmon, that, while the average price obtained for those exported to London, for the last seven years, is about eightpence, the average price of those sold at home is fully one shilling.

WHITE FISHING.

Cod, stock fish, and ling were early caught and cured at Footdee. The stock fish were held in high esteem by the English, and also by foreigners, who purchased large quantities every summer.

HERRING FISHING.

In 1612, the Magistrates made an attempt to establish a herring fishery at Aberdeen. A vessel was purchased at Rotterdam, fitted out with nets and lines, and placed under the charge of a Dutch captain, the Dutch at that period being largely engaged in the herring and cod fisheries. The speculation did not succeed; and, though various attempts of the same kind were subsequently made, they all failed. In 1836, the Magistrates and Council resolved to offer a bounty, and other encouragement, to herring curers, if they would start a fishing on an extended scale. The offer was accepted—about 30 boats were engaged—they did well. Next year, 50 boats were employed, and since then the fishery has been very successful. There were 250 fishermen on board these boats. Last year they received for their herrings L.4000.

The herrings are partly salted and pickled, but chiefly smoked; the former being called *white* herrings, the latter *red*. They are worth about 20s. to 22s. a barrel.

The Aberdeen market is abundantly supplied with fish of all kinds, fresh and cured. The "Finnan haddock" is the prime favourite, the qualities of which

are now so well known that it would be absurd to say a word in their favour.

The fishermen of Footdee gain about L.2 pe week in summer, and L.1 in winter. They also draw a large amount of money for piloting vessels out and in to the port.

Of these interesting people we could say much ; but we prefer quoting the following graphic description of their origin, manners, and customs, from *Blackwood's Magazine* for March, 1842, written by our talented and worthy townsman, John Robertson, Esq., late Editor of the *London and Westminster Review*, and now of Lincoln's Inn, London :—

Perhaps—though the distinctions are fast wearing away—there is not a more striking instance of two different races in one town than is displayed in Aberdeen. The streets occupied by the sailor population are only separated by a few dockyards from the two squares (called Fisher's Squares) of white, low, heather-thatched cottages among the sand-hills on the north side of the mouth of the Dee, which are inhabited by the Fittie folk, or fishers of the good city of Bon-Accord. But, in fact, all along the coast the fisher folks are a peculiar people, chiefly engaged in sea-faring pursuits, such as fishing and pilotage. Until very lately, although they had a sufficient number of words in common for transacting business with each other, the Aberdonians could not understand the dialect of the Fittie folk. The Aberdeen dialect is softer than the Fittie dialect. An Aberdeen woman complained of the bother of her children thus :—"Ye see fat fash folk gets fan they get a lot o' littleins." A Fittie man, on going into a shop for a hat, described the sort he wanted by saying, "Neither an eecrooned 'at, nor a lee-crooned 'at, bit a ba ordinary fisher mannie 'at." The *r* he scarcely sounds, and his pronouncia-

tion is rather labial than guttural. In the Aberdeen dialect, the description of the hat would be, "Neither a laigh-crooned hat, nor a heigh-crooned hat, but a bra ordinary fisherman's hat."


Let us enter one of their villages—one of their cottages. The outside of every row of the low-walled cottages is festooned on ropes, with jackets, petticoats, and bright-patterned handkerchiefs, or else these articles dry peacefully on the thatch. Occasionally *haulins*, tipped with hooks, are seen; or creels or *murlins* clustered round a pole, which overtops even the wooden *lum* or chimney itself. The men are at sea—many women away disposing of their fish, and only nursing mothers, and happy, noisy, playful, and dirty children, enliven the scene. A solitary, sullied seagull, or a *scrath* (cormorant), a huge grey creature, three feet long, with wings clipped, a captive, struts with a solemn half-happy pride about the mussel *middens*, or wades through the gutters, or approaches the edge of the undulating wave, which rushes gently up to kiss the smooth sand-beach. Enter one of their cottages. The floor is earthen; but, being Saturday afternoon, is neatly sanded over, from the door inwards to the hearth. There is no passage. The cottage consists of two rooms, a "but and a ben." At the far end from the door, the turf fire is burning on a hearth of bricks, and the smoke ascends past the couples out at a hole in the roof. As the evening is approaching, the fish, on *hakes* (wooden triangles, with nails for hooks), which, during the day, hung outside the walls to dry, are now suspended on them inside. In one corner, a few deal boards are nailed, so as to make a bed for children above, and a place for fuel below. A wooden cradle is opposite. The seats are fir stools and chairs, and the little round turning-up table is of the same material, and all are as clean and white as snow. Oars, wicker baskets, and creels and nets are placed on the couples. Let a regard for *Finnan haddies* invest these details with interest and respect; for, from such a scene, and such an environment, do they pass on their way to make up

that feast for the gods—a Scotch breakfast. The evening darkens in, and the “cruisie,” a small iron lamp, is lit up. A patriarchal family assembles, including sometimes four generations. Let a reverence for the great domestic drama of every-day life, of which these humble details make up the scene, stir the imagination to realize them all—the grandam, with her grandchild upon her knee—the nursing mother, the toiling father, the children gazing at their elders studiously, the little fellow asleep on the net on the floor, and the small light struggling with the smoke to display all. I will look at the Claudes and the Titians in your pictured drawing-room another time. It is a poor place, but you cannot fill your palace with more interesting things than it sees—births, deaths, marriages—life!

CHAPTER XVI

THE MARKETS.

FISH MARKETS.

OR many years it has been the custom of our fishermen to expose their fish for sale on the Castlegate; but, in 1837, the Magistrates and Council built a neat and commodious market at Trinity Quay. This market is open daily, and, when fully occupied, presents one of the most bustling and amusing scenes that could well be imagined.

MEAL MARKET.

There is a weekly market on Thursday for meal, where it may be bought in the smallest quantity, at something less than the retail price charged on other days of the week.

GRAIN MARKET.

The grain market is held weekly on Friday. There is generally a large attendance of farmers, and much

business is done both for home consumption and exportation.

FLESH MARKETS.

Butcher meat may be had in the flesh markets on Fridays, and in shops during the week. Until lately, the whole of the butcher meat consumed in the city was sold in the flesh markets of Wales Street and George Street ; but now the English system of putting up splendid shops in different districts of the city is very generally adopted.

LINEN MARKET, &c.

This market is held on the last Wednesday of April. A wool market is held on the last week of June, and on Thursday and Friday of the first two weeks of July ; a timber, on Castle Street, on the last Wednesday of August ; and a feeing market, for hiring farm servants, in King Street, on the first and second Fridays of May and November.

THE GENERAL WEEKLY MARKET.

The general weekly market, held on Castle Street, contains a greater variety of fruit and provisions of all kinds than can be found in any market in Scotland ; and not of fruit and provisions only, but of everything else. It is literally an *omnium gatherum* of the most curious description.

The scattered state of these markets has long been

a subject of regret, the inconvenience of families making weekly purchases having to go to so many different parts of the city being much felt. The want of shelter from the inclemency of the weather, or the scorching rays of the sun, was also complained of, and many suggestions were made with a view to an improvement. But it was not till the year 1838 that an efficient remedy was suggested, when Messrs. Adam & Anderson, Advocates, projected

THE NEW MARKETS AND NEW MARKET STREET.

On the first of July, 1839, an Act of Parliament was obtained for "erecting, establishing, and maintaining a new market in the city of Aberdeen, and for providing suitable approaches thereto." On the 8th of October, 1840, the foundation stone of the new markets was laid; and, on the 29th of April, 1842, the new markets were opened. These markets are erected after a design by Archibald Simpson, Esq., Architect, Aberdeen; and, to use the words of Provost Blaikie on the occasion of their being opened, we are at a "loss whether most to admire the genius and taste of the architect, the industry and perseverance of the builder, or the public spirit and enterprise of the directors of the Company;" the "elegant and graceful proportions of the whole building, its immense extent, and its varied accommodation," being so remarkable. The great hall measures 315 feet in length, 106 feet in breadth, and the height of the roof is 45 feet. This floor is divided into three compartments by 56 masonic pillars. The two side

alleys are occupied with 54 butchers' shops; the centre, by 270 yards of gardeners' benches, and 200 tables for light provisions. There is a very large polished-granite water fountain in the west end. In the galleries, there are 300 yards of counters, intended to be laid out with goods as a bazaar. On the basement floor there are 74 shops, 38 vaulted cellars, and 250 standing places in the circular end, for the sale of fish, &c. The workmanship on the roofing of the alleys on the basement floor is most striking; and altogether, although it be considerably below the level of the street, it has the advantage of the other compartments in point of neatness and accommodation. The two alleys which run along the whole length of the building, formed, as above, by the pillars which support the roof, communicate with each other through a very fine vaulted passage, lit up with gas. In the building altogether there are 270 gas burners. When these markets are fairly in operation they will afford accommodation for all the trades of the city who may choose to avail themselves of it, and will contain, besides, an excellent corn exchange.

The New Market Street will be of immense importance to the city. In none of the streets which lead to the quays is the declivity so gentle as in this. In Marischal Street, the gradients are 1 in $12\frac{1}{2}$; in Commerce Street, 1 in 16; while in the New Market Street, which is at the same time shorter than either of the two, the gradients are but 1 in 18. Nor is this its only advantage; it is, as has been stated, immediately in a line with St. Nicholas Street and George Street—the great north road—and so opens up an ac-


cess to trade from that quarter which has long been wanting. The new street measures, in length, 573 feet; in breadth, inclusive of the pavements, 50 feet. The latter communicate with Union Street by handsome piazzas.

The importance of this street appears in no view more striking than in the prospect of the upper part of the harbour being converted into wet docks—a proposal which is now under the consideration of the Harbour Trustees.

CHAPTER XVII.

MISCELLANEOUS INSTITUTIONS.

THE MECHANICS' INSTITUTION.

 HIS Institution was established in 1824, for obtaining, at a moderate expense, to working mechanics, "instructions in the various branches of science useful in the exercise of their professions," to be communicated by courses of lectures, and a suitable collection of models and books. It was well attended at the outset, but in the course of a few years it became dormant. In 1834, however, it was reorganized "on a more secure foundation, with extended objects and enlarged operations." The communication of useful knowledge, generally, among all who choose to avail themselves of its privileges, is now the aim of the institution; and *classes* for teaching Arithmetic, Mathematics, Drawing (mechanical and architectural, sketching, perspective, &c.), English Grammar and Composition, French, Natural Philosophy, Chemistry, and a class or society for Mutual Instruction in every branch of science and literature are now in operation every session, which extends from the beginning of November to the end of April. The subscription to the library (an exten-

sive and valuable scientific and literary collection) is only 4s. per annum, which constitutes the subscriber a member of the institution, with the right of voting, &c. Students at the classes only are not members of the institution. The library and class rooms are at present at No. 1, Long Acre.

Vigorous efforts have been made by the committee to raise funds for building a new hall, and one way or another a pretty large sum has been raised. Last winter, an exhibition of a most attractive and instructive kind was got up by the institution, the leading design of which was to raise funds for the new building; but, owing to the great expense necessary for the erection of a temporary building, &c., about L.100 only were realised.

ARTISTS' SOCIETY.

This society was instituted in 1827, for the mutual improvement of the members in painting, and the furtherance of art generally in this quarter. It consists of artists and amateurs, mostly resident in Aberdeen and neighbourhood, and of honorary members. The more immediate objects of their attention are the formation of a library, a collection of casts, engravings, &c., and the maintenance of works of art in Aberdeen. The funds of the society arise from the annual payments of members and donations.

PHRENOLOGICAL SOCIETY.

This society was instituted in 1836. It meets

once a fortnight, on Tuesday evenings, during the winter, for holding discussions and delivering essays on the principles of Phrenology. It possesses a valuable library, chiefly of Phrenological works.

SHORE PORTERS' SOCIETY.

So early as the year 1522, we find the Magistrates and Council, as they do at this day, establishing the wages of a number of persons who had the exclusive right of carrying goods to and from the shipping, prescribing their duties, and making them jointly and severally liable for the loss or damage of goods committed to the charge of any of their number. In 1666, a fund was instituted for the relief of decayed members, &c.; and, in 1701, the Council authorised them to exact entry-moneys, and make yearly contributions, in aid of their funds. Several years ago, an additional fund was instituted, and their income is now considerable, and is distributed yearly to indigent members, widows, and orphans, in sums of about L.5 to each annuitant. The members of the society, in their capacity of porters, are under the direction of the Magistrates, who regulate their rates of fare from time to time, and to whom their Deacon, elected on the first Tuesday of January yearly, is reported. They are also firemen, special constables, &c. Their number is limited to twenty-four, and none can be admitted till he finds caution in the Baillie Court books to the extent of L.30. The society is also obliged to find caution to the extent of L.200. The consequence of these regulations is that the society

has always consisted of men of the strictest integrity and propriety of conduct.

SHIPMASTERS' SOCIETY.

In 1598, the shipmasters and seamen of the port associated together, and established a fund for giving pecuniary aid to indigent members, their widows and children ; and, in 1600, James VI. granted them a charter of incorporation, which authorised them to levy a tax, called *prime gilt*, on all shipping frequenting the port, and to collect a small part of the seamen's wages, monthly, for the benefit of the society. They did so till 1777, when the merchants and ship-owners refused to pay it, and the Court of Session and House of Lords declared the tax illegal. A new charter was obtained in 1801 to the society, under the title of the "President and Society of Shipmasters in Aberdeen." The society is very wealthy, affording to each of its decayed members, &c., about L.20; and distributing nearly L.1000 yearly. The admission money and yearly contribution vary according to the age and rank of the applicant. Comparatively few now enter, as the society is nearly superseded by the Merchant Seamen's Society, established a few years ago by Act of Parliament.

SEAMEN'S FRIEND SOCIETY.

This society was instituted in 1823, for the purpose of supplying preaching to sailors, and instructing their children in the usual branches of education.

The society possesses a chapel, situated in Sugar-house Lane. For a long time divine service was conducted by ministers both of the Establishment and Dissenters; but latterly it was constituted a church *quoad sacra*, and had a parochial district attached.

ABERDEEN GOLF CLUB.

This club was established in 1815. The entry-money is L.1 1s.; annual subscription, 5s. Quarterly meetings are held on the first Saturdays of January, April, July, and October. A gold medal is played for in May, yearly, which the winner is permitted to wear, on public occasions, for a twelvemonth, when it is again contended for.

GAS-LIGHT COMPANY.

This company was established in 1824, for the purpose of supplying the public streets and private consumers with gas light. It is in a very flourishing condition.

The consumpt has been gradually increasing since the use of oil gas was relinquished, and at present the nightly distribution is about 150,000 feet in winter, and about 20,000 feet in summer. The consumers may be thus classed:—Manufactories and weaving shops, 120; shops and warehouses, 1350; private houses, 1536; churches, 30; schools and lecture-rooms, 50; public institutions, 38; besides 1100 public lamps for lighting the streets. The gross

consumpt of gas for the last seven years has been as follows :—

Years.	Cubic Feet.	Years.	Cubic Feet.
1832	8,848,700	1839	23,700,000
1835	13,073,900	1840	25,000,000
1838	22,873,000	1841	26,000,000

CANAL NAVIGATION COMPANY.

In 1795, a sum being raised by L.50 subscription shares, an Act of Parliament was obtained, incorporating this company, and authorising the execution of the canal, which was to extend from Port Elphinstone, near Inverury—a distance of about $18\frac{1}{4}$ miles. The difficulties and expenses of the undertaking turning out greater than was originally contemplated, two other acts were obtained, in 1801 and afterwards, enabling the company to raise additional funds for the work, which, therefore, was not completed till 1807, in which year it was opened for navigation. Although the traffic on the canal has always been considerable, it has not been very productive to the proprietors. A few years ago, however, a tide-lock, communicating with the harbour, was constructed, which has greatly facilitated the use of the canal, the trade whereon is consequently increasing.

Swift iron gig-boat sails from Kittybrewster, from April to September, and afford most comfortable accommodation. Fares—fore cabin, 2s.; after cabin, 1s. 6d.

THE NARROW WYND SOCIETY.

This institution was the first friendly or benefit

society in Aberdeen. It was established in 1660, and soon after contained a great number of the most respectable citizens. Its object was to provide a fund for the relief of decayed indigent members, their widows and orphans. The original constitution of the society has undergone considerable modifications; but its chief objects are still carried out, and the institution itself continues to prosper.

THE GUILDREY COMPANY.

This company was instituted in 1826. It is composed of Burgesses of Guild, and was originated from a conviction that it had long been matter of "regret that a body so numerous and respectable as the Guildre of Aberdeen should have no adequate source from which its members, in the event of misfortune, or their widows or their orphans, when left in destitute circumstances, could derive assistance."

The widows of members of the society receive an annuity of L.10. To provide this there is a scale of fines or contributions, calculated on the safest data, and payable either in one sum at the outset, or yearly, as members may think best. The tables were examined, last year, by Dr. Cruickshank of Marischal College, and Mr. Notman of the Aberdeen Assurance Company, who pronounced them amply sufficient to warrant the annuities granted.

TOTAL ABSTINENCE SOCIETY.

This is an association formed upon the principle

of total abstinence from all intoxicating drinks, as the best means of preventing and remedying intemperance. It involves no vow or oath as a condition of membership, but simply a subscription to a pledge to abstain from all intoxicating drinks, except for medicinal or sacramental purposes, as a friendly bond of security. There are about 8000 teetotalers in the Aberdeen Society, including four ministers in the Establishment, and seven in connexion with the Dissenters. The society lately built a splendid hall in George Street, which is used on most public occasions of great interest, it being conditioned by its constitution "that no intoxicating drinks shall be used in it, nor any immoral practices allowed." The following table is given in one of their publications—the *Northern Temperance Record*—in proof of the influence of the institution on the sale of intoxicating drinks :—

Licences issued for the city of Aberdeen for the following years, ending July 1.

Years.	Licences.	Years.	Licences.
1834	740	1839	588
1835	750	1840	575
1836	750	1841	480
1837	870	1842	399
1838	627		

The society holds its meetings once a-week, and elects its office-bearers twice a-year. The society was founded in 1837, by the Rev. Robert Gray Mason, a philanthropic gentleman from England.

MUSICAL SOCIETIES.

The *Aberdeen Journal* of 4th May contains an excellent article on music, written, we presume, by Mr. John Ramsay, from which we take the following extract :—

Our forefathers were distinguished cultivators of musical accomplishment, both vocal and instrumental. In the dedication to the Provost and Magistrates of Aberdeen of Forbes' "*Cantus, Songs, and Fancies*" (1682), the worthy old printer declares that "the fame of Aberdeen for its admirable knowledge in this divine science hath almost overspread whole Europe." Furthermore, of the Magistrates he saith—"Seeing it hath pleased Divine Providence, in the persons of your honourable wisdoms, to bless the bench of famous Bon-Accord with such a harmonious heavenly concert of *as many musicians as Magistrates!*" And, in poetic guise, he thus addresseth them :—

" For harmony in Bon-Accord,
Hath been this place intent ;
Yea, grace divine and music fine
Your persons still present !"

John Forbes, who imprinted and sold this work "at his printing house above the Meal Market, at the sign of the town's arms," did both, not for lust of filthy lucre, but, as he says, "for the good of this city and my country," the former being, as he boasts, the very "manse of the muses !" Local chroniclers inform us that the town had its public minstrels many centuries ago. In the year 1500, the Council enacted, "that John and Robert, their common minstrels, shall have reasonable diets through the neighbours of the town ; and, if any person refuse to receive them to their diets, it shall be leasum (lawful) to them to give to the minstrels, xijd. in the day, both for meat, drink, and wages, for simple folks !" At subsequent periods the composition

money was considerably increased. At this time, says the book of Bon-Accord, they were in the habit of passing "through all the rows and streets of the guid town at five hours in the morning, and betwixt eight and nine at even." In 1566, John Cowper received a pension of six merks a-year, "for his service to be done to the town in tyme cumming, in playing upon the swesche (drum) als weill in tyme of war as in tyme of peace, and sport, and play." In 1574, it was ordained that he should "pass everie day in the morning at four hours, and everie nyght at eight hours at even, throu all the rewis of the toune, played upon the Almanay Quhissil (German Flute), with an servand with him playand on the tambourine." He was provided with "ane garment of reed English stamming." In 1607, during the erection of the south pier at the entrance into the harbour, the workmen were spirited on to activity, by the city musicians, with such success, that the Magistrates rewarded their truly *Orphean* power over stone-work, by granting unto "Andrew Inglis, sweshman, the soume of five pounds, and to Jasper Mylne, common piper, ten merks, for their extraordinir paines during the bigging of the bulwark." Besides its minstrels, the city had its music school from a very remote period. The citizens were famous for their vocal accomplishments. In the *Aberdeen Journal* for Aug. 23, 1748, occurs the following :—"In justice to the merits of the teachers of the writing and music schools of this city, we have the pleasure to inform the public that, last Thursday, the honourable Magistrates and Council paid them a visit, when the scholars in both performed their parts to the entire satisfaction of the visitors. But, particularly, the scholars in the music school performed several parts of vocal and instrumental musick, in presence of a polite and numerous auditory, and some persons of distinction, who were pleased to say *they were the best performers of any they ever heard in a publick school in Scotland.*" At a later period we had the Musical Society, which flourished for many years, and included among its members all the most respectable citizens, many of whom

were most accomplished musicians. The delightful and refining art has latterly rather languished among us. This is much to be regretted, for many reasons, which our limits permit us not, in the meantime, to state. We, therefore, hail with the greater pleasure any attempt to revive the taste for which our ancestors were so famed, and thus to enlarge the sources of national enjoyment.

On Friday, 6th May, a meeting of gentlemen friendly to the establishment of a public band in Aberdeen was held in the Town Hall—Provost Blaikie in the chair—when it was resolved to proceed with one immediately, and otherwise to take steps for improving the musical taste of our citizens. Musical classes have long been taught by Mr. Davie, who is acknowledged to be one of the most efficient teachers of music in the north, and we hope that the day is now at hand when the “good old times” will be restored.

PAWNBROKERS.

It is between twenty and thirty years since this lucrative but not commendable occupation was first introduced into Aberdeen, and there are now six of them established, and in full occupation. The capital invested in this trade may be about L.10,000, which is generally understood to be turned five times in the course of a year. About nine-tenths of the articles pledged are redeemed within the legal period, and, unquestionably, much occasional relief is afforded in seasons of temporary distress by their assistance, though, at the same time, it is to be feared that the greater part of their trade arises from the improvident and the dissipated.

MISSIONARY SOCIETIES.

There are many associations of this kind in Aberdeen. It is not easy to say how many of them are at any time in active operation. The following is, however, given as a tolerably correct list of the principal ones :—Two Religious Tract Societies—the one, instituted in 1797 and revived in 1811, has distributed about 1,500,000 tracts, partly gratuitously, and partly sold at low prices ; the other lately instituted.

Eight Missionary Societies, of which three are supported by members of the Church of Scotland, and five by Dissenters of various denominations.

One society for promoting Christianity among the Jews ; one for promoting the Religious Principles of the Reformation ; one Anti-Patronage Society ; one North American Colonial Society ; one Temperance Society ; one for Promoting Education in the Highlands and Islands ; one for Promoting Female Education in India ; two for Promoting the Total Abolition of Slavery ; one for the Defence and Extension of the Church of Scotland ; one for Promoting Education and Reformation among the Prisoners in the Jail.

BIBLE SOCIETIES.

In 1811, a society was instituted in Aberdeen, auxiliary to the British and Foreign Bible Society. The disputes that arose in 1826, in consequence of the distribution of the Apocrypha, led, in 1827, to the formation of another Bible Society, whose surplus

funds have generally been devoted to aid the operations of the Edinburgh Bible Society.

Previous to this a society had been instituted in Aberdeen for the purpose of supplying Bibles at prime cost to the sailors trading at the port, which, after issuing, in the course of nine years, upwards of 2,300 Bibles, was, in 1827, joined with the Auxiliary Naval and Military Bible Society, then recently instituted, the object of which is the same with that of the similar societies in London, Edinburgh, &c., viz., to supply Bibles and Testaments, at a reduced price (generally about two-thirds of the prime cost), to soldiers, sailors, bargemen, fishers, and pensioners. The surplus funds of this society are remitted to the Naval and Military Bible Society in London.

PUBLIC LIBRARIES.

Besides the libraries belonging to the University, the School of Divinity, the Medical Society, the Society of Advocates, and the Mechanics' Institution, there are several subscription libraries in Aberdeen, the principal of which are those belonging to Messrs. A. Brown & Co., D. Wyllie & Son, and W. Russell. The number of volumes contained in these libraries may be about 10,000 or 12,000. They are chiefly in the lighter departments of literature, but there are many also of more permanent interest, and of a more important character. The terms of subscription vary from 15s. to L.1 11s. 6d. per annum, according to the number of volumes borrowed at a time, and, generally


speaking, these libraries are well supplied with publications.

READING ROOMS.

The principal reading room in Aberdeen is the Athenæum in Castle Street, where there is a great variety of newspapers and magazines. It is pretty well supported. There is also a news-room in the County Rooms, chiefly for the convenience of the county gentlemen. There is another news-room in No. 1, Union Lane, which contains a very select variety of papers.

CHAPTER XVII.

THE PRESS.

N the "New Aberdeen Almanac," published in 1838, by Mr. Lewis Smith and Mr. P. Gray, Booksellers, which has been of much service to us in this work, printing and the press of Aberdeen are thus noticed :—

The art of printing, invented about 1440—introduced into England by Caxton, 1474—was first practised in Scotland about 1540, and did not reach Aberdeen till nearly a century afterwards. In 1621, the Bishop and Provost of Aberdeen obtained a royal patent for establishing printing, and soon afterwards Edward Raban was settled here as sole printer to the town and University, with a salary of L.40 yearly, and some small fees. He was a good workman. In 1626, he published an Almanac, supposed to be the first printed in Scotland. He exercised his office till his death, in 1649, when he was succeeded by Thomas Brown, who died in 1662; and to whom succeeded John Forbes, stationer, and his son. Mr. Forbes was among the first Scottish printers of music, and, in 1666, published a collection of songs with the music. He died in 1705, and was succeeded by his widow. In 1710, Margaret Forbes, their daughter, and James Nicoll, printer, the husband of the latter, were appointed her successors, and they continued town printers till 1736, when, on their resignation, James Chalmers, son

of Professor Chalmers of Marischal College, was appointed to the office. In January, 1748, the first number of the *Aberdeen Journal or North British Magazine* was published, and it has since been continued regularly every week. It was the first periodical work of any description published in Aberdeen, but, it need hardly be said, was a very indifferent and diminutive looking print, compared with the splendid sheet that is now issued from the steam press of Mr. D. Chalmers, the grandson of its original publisher. Mr. D. Chalmers is printer to the Universities, but does not now enjoy the monopoly of the town's printing. During the latter part of last century, various attempts were made to establish another newspaper in Aberdeen, but none of these were successful. On 30th September, 1806, however, the *Aberdeen Chronicle*, No. 1, was published, which was continued till 1st September, 1832, when it gave place to the *Aberdeen Herald*, which is conducted with spirit and ability. In March, 1829, the *Observer* was established, but it gradually decayed; and, in September last, it retired to make way for the *Constitutional*, which is well supported, and bids fair to obtain an extensive circulation. The *Herald* and the *Constitutional* belong to joint-stock companies; the *Journal*, to D. Chalmers & Co. The politics of the *Herald* are *Whig-Radical*, the *Constitutional* is *Conservative*, and the *Journal* *neutral*, with an inclination towards the Tories.

In 1840, the *Banner*, a fourth paper, was established as the organ of the Evangelical section of the Church of Scotland.

The average circulation of these papers, for the last twelve months, according to the stamp returns, is—*Journal*, 2,300; *Herald*, 2,050; *Banner*, 1,200; and *Constitutional* about 500. The political character of the papers, as given above, applies with equal force now to the *Constitutional* and *Herald*, but the *Journal* has of late become quite decided in its Conservatism.

Several attempts have been made to establish a magazine in Aberdeen, but they have all failed.

There is a great deal of printing done in Aberdeen; and we believe that, in as far as its job printing is concerned, it stands unrivalled, the cheapest handbill put out being of itself almost a perfect specimen of the art.

THE SPALDING CLUB.

This institution was started in 1839, for the purpose of printing and publishing, for the use of its members, ancient and rare MSS. connected with the north of Scotland. The Earl of Aberdeen is patron of the club, and its members consist of the most wealthy and influential noblemen and gentlemen in the north.

THE STATISTICAL SOCIETY.

This society was formed in 1841, with a view to the collection and publication of statistical information connected with the city and northern counties. The Earl of Erroll is patron.

We have now brought down the local institutions and numerous other establishments of the city to the present year. In a work of such a limited nature it will not be expected that we have been able to give an account of the whole; but it is hoped that few or none have been omitted that are really of public importance.

In preparing the "Repository," our aim has been nothing "to extenuate, or set down aught in malice,"

but to state honestly and explicitly what we believed to be the truth, without any admixture of error.

We have pleasure in acknowledging the sources from which our information has chiefly been drawn. These are the "Council Records," and all the publications connected with the city, from "Kennedy's Annals" down to the "Book of Bon-Accord;" and we should be wanting in gratitude were we not to record the kind and cordial assistance which we obtained from the parties connected with the various interests to which reference has been made, especially to Baillie Forbes and to the gentlemen connected with the Town House and Harbour Office.

ABERDEEN:

PRINTED BY GEO. CORNWALL, VICTORIA COURT,

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CASTLE STR T.

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ADVERTISEMENTS.

**NORTH OF SCOTLAND
FIRE AND LIFE ASSURANCE COMPANY,
FOR INSURING
DWELLING HOUSES, MANUFACTORIES, RENTS, FURNITURE, GOODS,
AND MERCHANDISE;
FARMING STOCK (LIVE AND DEAD);
SHIPPING IN PORT & IN DOCK, & WHILE BUILDING OR REPAIRING;
AND ALL OTHER PROPERTY FROM LOSS OR DAMAGE BY FIRE;
AND ALSO FOR THE ASSURANCE OF LIVES;
FOR GRANTING AND PURCHASING ANNUITIES;
FOR LENDING MONEY ON REDEEMABLE ANNUITY AND OTHER
APPROVED SECURITIES;
AND GENERALLY FOR UNDERTAKING ALL TRANSACTIONS DEPENDENT
ON THE CONTINGENCY OF LIFE.**

HEAD OFFICE—No. 3, KING STREET, ABERDEEN.

CAPITAL—ONE MILLION.

Governor.

Right Honourable Viscount ARBUTHNOTT.

Honorary Presidents.

The Right Honourable the Earl of ERROLL, K.T.

The Right Honourable the Earl of KINTORE.

The Right Honourable Lord SALTOUN.

Major-General the Hon. HUGH ARBUTHNOTT, M.P.

The Honourable FOX MAULE, M.P.

ALEXANDER BANNERMAN, Esq., M.P.

Extraordinary Directors.

Alex. Abercrombie, Esq. of Rothney.	David Morice Johnston, Esq., London.
John Adam, Esq. of Seobach.	Alex. Jopp, Esq., Advocate, Aberdeen.
James Buchan, Esq. of Auchmacoy.	Dr. Wm. Knight, Marischal College.
James Bruce, Esq. of Longside.	Archd. Young Leslie, Esq. of Kinlrvie.
David Blaikie, Esq. of Kimmundy.	Duncan F. Mitchell, Esq. of Thainston.
Alex. Chivas, Esq., Banker, Aberdeen.	John Morrice, Esq. of Tullos.
Leslie Cruickshank, Esq. of Deesmount.	The Rev. W. R. Pirie, Dyce.
J. Duncan, Esq., Manufacturer, Abdn.	J. Ramsay, Esq. of Bushy House, Herts.
Thos. N. Farquhar, Esq. of Jackston.	J. B. Spottiswood, Esq. of Muirask.
D. Forbes, Esq. younger of Balgownie.	A. Thomson, Esq., Banker, Aberdeen.

ABERDEEN BOARD OF DIRECTORS.

THOMAS BEST, Esq., *Chairman.*

William Adam, Esq., Advocate.	Alexander Gordon, Esq., Advocate.
John Angus, Esq., Advocate.	Robert Johnston, Esq., Merchant.
Alexander Anderson, Esq., Advocate.	J. B. M'Combie, Esq. of Gillybrands.
John Blaikie, Esq. of Craigiebuckler.	Henry Paterson, Esq., Banker.
Lewis Crombie, Esq. of Kirkhill.	James Simpson, Esq., Advocate.
Dr. J. Cruickshank, Marischal College.	Peter Williamson, Esq., Druggist.

LONDON BOARD OF DIRECTORS.

Office—1, Moorgate Street, City.

John Abercrombie, Esq.	Charles M'Gregor, Esq.
George Glenn Anderson, Esq.	Aeneas M'Intosh, Esq.
James Farquhar, Esq.	William Morrice, Esq.
Peter Laurie, Esq.	Alexander Rogers, Esq.
Robert Low, Esq.	Alexander Ross, Esq.

CONSTITUTION AND OBJECTS OF THE COMPANY.

THIS Company was established at Aberdeen in the year 1836, for the purpose "of making or effecting Insurances of all kinds of Property against loss or damage by Fire; Assurances of Single Lives, Joint Lives, and Survivorships; Loans on Life Policies; the purchase and sale of Reversions, Reversionary Interests, and Annuities; Endowments for Children; and generally for all transactions dependent on the Contingency of Life."

The Capital of the Company is One Million, divided into 50,000 Shares of £20; but the Directors have power, if they think fit to exercise it, to extend the Capital to £2,000,000, by the creation of 50,000 additional Shares. The present proprietary consists of nearly one thousand partners, of the first respectability and influence, thus affording to parties who transact business with the Company, besides the security of the ample Capital, an undoubted personal guarantee.

The Head Office of the Company is in Aberdeen, where the business is managed by thirteen Ordinary Directors, elected annually by the Shareholders. There is also a Branch Office of the Company, for Life business only, in London, under a local Board of Directors and other office bearers, and Agents have been appointed in all the principal towns and villages in Scotland, and in the north of England and Ireland.

PROGRESS OF THE COMPANY.

The progress of the Company has been eminently successful, and has surpassed the most sanguine anticipations of its projectors; the amount of Business, particularly in the Life Department, having, it is believed, exceeded that of any similar institution in Scotland, in the same period of time. The Directors are much gratified in being enabled to refer to this circumstance, affording as it does, the best evidence that the various plans of accommodation offered by the Company have met with the approval of the Public.

ADVANTAGES.

I.—FIRE INSURANCES are effected by the Company on the usual terms of other respectable establishments, and Losses are immediately and liberally settled on being ascertained.

II.—IN THE LIFE DEPARTMENT of its business, the Company holds out very superior advantages; the Tables of Rates, which are varied and extensive, having been calculated expressly for the Office, from the most recently ascertained probabilities of human life. The Assured are formed into two classes:—1st, Those who assure a stated sum, who are not entitled to contingent additions in Profits. 2d, Those who, by paying a single premium, not only assure a stated amount, but also become entitled to participate in the surplus fund arising from their own contributions. The funds of this class are kept separate and distinct from the other accounts of the Company, and the assured may name three of their own number to act along with the Ordinary Directors in the management and investment of these funds. The first investigation takes place in 1846.

III.—Premiums may be made payable in any way to suit the convenience of the assured.

IV.—The sum assured may be made payable *to the party at any age fixed upon*, or to his heirs or executors should he die previously.

V.—ONE HALF OF THE PREMIUMS MAY REMAIN UNPAID FOR FIVE YEARS from the date of the Policy, to be deducted, with interest, from the sum assured at death, or paid off at convenience.

VI.—No charge is made for Entrance Money.

VII.—Claims are paid within three months after satisfactory proof of death.

VIII.—Loans are made on Policies.

SPECIMEN OF THE TABLES.

For an Assurance of £100.

PAYABLE THREE MONTHS AFTER DEATH, WITHOUT ADDITIONS.											
Age	Annual Prem.			Age	Annual Prem.			Age	Annual Prem.		
	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
26	1	18	7	33	2	4	10	40	2	14	6
27	1	19	3	34	2	6	0	41	2	16	3
28	2	0	3	35	2	7	2	42	2	18	1
29	2	1	0	36	2	8	6	43	3	0	5
30	2	1	11	37	2	9	10	44	3	2	4
31	2	2	9	38	2	11	4	45	3	4	7
32	2	3	9	39	2	12	10	46	3	7	4
								47	3	10	0
								48	3	13	2
								49	3	16	5
								50	3	19	11
								51	4	3	7
								52	4	7	3
								53	4	11	1
								54	4	14	11
								55	4	19	0
								56	5	3	1
								57	5	7	6
								58	5	11	11
								59	5	16	7
								60	6	1	9

* EXAMPLE.—A Person aged 30 next birthday, may secure £100 at his death, by paying £2 ls. 11d. annually, during his life.

Persons desirous of effecting Assurances, for either *One Year, Five Years, Seven Years, or Ten Years*, or by any other mode of payments than those stated in the foregoing Tables, will be accommodated on application at the Office or Agencies, where the Rates for all ages, and for Insurances on Joint-Lives and Survivorships, Endowments, and Annuities will be ascertained.

Printed Forms of Proposal and Declarations are to be had, GRATIS, at the Head Office or Agencies.

WILLIAM CHALMERS, *Manager*.

ABERDEEN ASSURANCE COMPANY,

Established, 1826,

FOR INSURING AGAINST LOSS BY FIRE, FOR INSURANCE ON LIVES AND SURVIVORSHIPS, GRANTING ANNUITIES AND ENDOWMENTS, AND PURCHASING LIFE-RENTS AND REVERSIONARY INTERESTS.

The Right Hon. Lord FORBES, *Governor*.

CAPITAL—ONE MILLION.

HEAD OFFICE—89, UNION STREET, ABERDEEN.

Office in Edinburgh, 68, PRINCES STREET.

Office in Glasgow, 69, ST. VINCENT STREET.

Office in Perth, 79, HIGH STREET.

THIS Company, which is the oldest native Establishment in this part of the kingdom, was founded by a numerous and influential body of Proprietors, and has continued to transact every kind of Insurance Business with the utmost liberality.

In the FIRE DEPARTMENT, every description of Real and Personal Property is Insured at the lowest rate of Premium compatible with the prompt and liberal settlement of losses.

LIFE DEPARTMENT.

Every facility is given to parties effecting Assurances upon their own lives, or upon those in which they are interested. The Premiums may be paid, at the option of the Assured, by quarterly, half-yearly, or yearly payments.

The Sum Assured may be made payable AT ANY AGE FIXED UPON, or at the death of the Party if he predecease that age.

Assurances are effected on the Lives of NAVAL AND MILITARY MEN, or upon those of other parties *intending to reside abroad*, at Premiums proportioned to the extra risk. All claims are paid three months after proof of death.

The Premiums required will be found, upon a comparison with those of other respectable Offices, among the lowest presented to the public; thus—

ADVERTISEMENTS.

Annual Payment for Assurance of £100 on a Single Life.

Age.	WITHOUT PROFITS.			WITH PROF.		
	One Year.	Seven Years.	Life.	Life.		
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.		
20	0 16 8	0 17 3	1 14 7	1 18 1		
25	0 18 3	1 0 0	1 18 1	2 1 6		
30	1 2 1	1 3 6	2 2 0	2 5 7		
35	1 5 3	1 7 5	2 7 3	2 11 3		
40	1 8 10	1 11 1	2 14 5	2 19 7		
45	1 14 1	1 14 7	3 7 2	3 10 5		
50	1 17 9	2 2 10	3 19 8	4 6 10		

ANNUITIES,

Immediate and Deferred, are granted upon the most favourable terms. The Sums allowed for every £100 deposited may be learned upon application at the Office, where Prospectuses, containing full information on the subjects of Fire and Life Assurance, may also be obtained.

ROBT. RUSSELL NOTMAN, Manager.

**.* No charge is made for Policies upon transfers from other Offices, or for Policies covering Farm Stock, which is insured at 2s. per cent., free from duty.*

BON-ACCORD MARINE INSURANCE COMPANY, ABERDEEN.

CAPITAL, £100,000.

Directors.

Robert Johnston, Merchant, Aberdeen.
Gavin Hadden, Jun., Manufacturer, do.
Benjamin Moir, Merchant, Aberdeen,
Peter Williamson, Druggist, do.
James Hall, Shipbuilder, do.

James Goldie, Shipowner, Aberdeen.
Leslie Cruickshank, Merchant, do.
Alexander Anderson, Advocate, do.
John Duncan, Manufacturer, do.

ALEXANDER BELL, Manager.

THE following are the Company's terms of business, and mode of Settlement :—

In the event of Vessels insured by the Company receiving damage, the third usually deducted for new work will not be taken off British-built Vessels, unless their age exceeds twelve months.

The Risk upon the Ship will continue until the cargo is discharged, if such period does not exceed ten days.

Losses and Averages will be paid in Cash, without any deduction, in ten days after the Accounts have been adjusted.

Twelve and a-half per cent. Discount will be allowed upon the amount of Premiums, on current Accounts settled Quarterly ; Ten per cent, on current Accounts settled at the end of Six Months ; Seven and a-half per cent. on current Accounts settled at the end of Nine Months ; or Five per cent. on current Accounts settled Annually.

ABERDEEN MARKETS.

WERE OPENED ON FRIDAY, 13TH MAY, 1842.

THE DIRECTORS of the **ABERDEEN MARKET COMPANY** beg to intimate to the Tenants of the New Market Building, and the Public, that the **MARKETS** were **OPENED FOR BUSINESS** on the Morning of **FRIDAY** the 13th instant, and will **CONTINUE OPEN EVERY LAWFUL DAY**, for the Sale of Butcher Meat, Meal, Fruit, Vegetables, Flowers, Salmon, Findon Haddocks, and all sorts of Dried Fish, Game, Poultry, Butter, Cheese, and other Viands and Provisions; and in the **GALLERIES**, for Linen, Cotton, and Woollen Stuffs, Ready-made Clothes, Hosiery, Shoes, Hats and Caps, Strawplait Work, Jewellery, Cutlery, Fancy Wares, Hardware, Tinplate Goods, Stoneware, Stationery, New and Old Books, Perfumery, Confectionery, &c. &c.

The **GRAIN MARKET** is held in the Building, on **FRIDAY**, at **ONE o'clock**.

CARTS to be set down, **FREE OF CHARGES**, on the Vacant Ground south of the Markets, adjoining Fisher Row.

The **DIRECTORS**, considering the large Expenditure upon the Building, and the necessary Annual Charges on the Establishment, have fixed the Scale of Rates as under, being the lowest which could be adopted; and they confidently rely on the support of the Public and their Fellow-citizens:—

BASEMENT FLOOR.	Per Quarter.	Per Week.	Per Day.
SHOPS,	£1 5 0	£0 2 6	£0 1 3
Do.	0 17 6	0 2 0	0 1 6
Do. with CELLARS,	1 10 0	0 3 0	0 2 0
Do. with do.	1 5 0	0 2 6	0 1 6
STANDING PLACES,	0 0 0	0 0 0	0 0 1
Each BASKET, or CREEL, } with FISH,	0 0 0	0 0 0	0 0 1

HALL.

SHOPS,	1 15 0	0 4 0	0 2 6
TABLES, for the Sale of Vegetables, per lineal yard,	0 6 6	0 0 6	0 0 4
Do., for the Sale of Provisions, per lineal yard,	0 0 0	0 0 0	0 0 2

GALLERY.

COUNTER, per lineal yard } Class A,	0 0 0	0 1 0	0 0 6
COUNTER, per lineal yard, } Class B,	0 0 0	0 0 9	0 0 4

People from the country attending the Weekly Market with their Dairy Produce,

Not exceeding 10 lb. BUTTER, and 6 dozen EGGS, in Baskets, p.d.
POULTRY, not exceeding 4 pairs, p.d.

Aberdeen, 15th May, 1842.



